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Saudi leaks reveal new evidence in nurses case

BY DANIEL McGrory

SAUDI newspapers yesterday disclosed apparently damning new evidence against the two British nurses accused of murdering a hospital colleague.

Diplomats were surprised at what they describe as "unprecedented leaks" of the case against Lucille McLaughlan, 31, from Dundee, and Deborah Parry, 41, from the Midlands, which they believe must have been sanctioned

by the authorities. Graphic details of how the women allegedly tried to cover up their part in the murder and their supposed separate confessions were released as part of what observers believe is an effort by the Saudis to defend their much

criticised legal system.

British diplomats who expect to visit the two nurses today in the women's prison in Dharban refused to speculate as to why the Saudi press carried detail that could have come only from the

The Al-Hayat newspaper reportyear-old Yvonne Gilford that she was "an old woman" no longer of capable of doing her job and who was about to be dismised from the King Fahd Military Medical Coll-

ege where all three worked. One of the Britons is said to have hit the Australian theatre nurse with a teapot and then stabbed her with a kitchen knife in the back, chest and face.

The newspaper said that after the murder on December II the two nurses straightened furniture and wiped away fingerprints. This "explained" why investigators were able to find only one print from one of the Britons despite their admission that both were frequent visitors to Miss Gilford's

bedroom in their shared flat. Police sources are quoted about how they were told by the National Commercial Bank that the victim's bank card was being used three days after her murder with 5,000 riyals (about £1,000) withdrawn on

three successive days.

Police are said to have watched the suspects leave the hospital and take a taxi to a shopping centre where one of them went to a bank

She is reported to have confessed when police arrested her and the newspaper says her alleged accomplice confessed two days later. Saudi journalists have also been

briefed by police about lurid suggestions of how a lesbian relationship or moneylending might have been the motive. It is alleged that Miss Gifford would lend money to new recruits until they received pay cheques.

Diplomats have been surprised at the interest Saudis have taken in the case. Observers have suggested that mindful of Western criticism of the fairness of its strict Sharia courts and the punishment of public beheading, the Saudis are allowing incriminating evidence to be published.

A dossier said to include confessions, forensic evidence and the testimony of other nurses has been sent to the Governor of Eastern Province who will decide the next step. He can decide whether the case goes before a Sharia court. dismiss the allegations or seek deportation.

Such is the Saudi sensitivity about its handling of this case that its Ambassador in London, Dr Ghazi Algosaibi, issued a statement stressing that the women would receive a fair trial and that no confession would be regarded as valid unless given before the Islamic judges.

Should a death sentence be passed then the final judgement will rest with the victim's family. Frank Gilford, the victim's brother, said at the weekend that he might now intervene.



Jill and William Willis who died trying to rescue their pet Tara from a former gravel pit in Essex. The dog survived



Couple die in frozen lake as they try to rescue dog

PAGES 19

A MARRIED couple died yesterday after falling through ice as they ventured on to a frozen lake to try to save their

Another man who went into the water in a vain attempt to reach William and Jill Willis also became trapped and was rescued by a park ranger.

The dog, a labrador, struggled free unaided from the former gravel pit at Belhus Wood Country Park, at

Aveley, near Grays, in Essex. Mrs Willis, who was in the water for about an hour, showed signs of life but died after she was airlifted to the Whitechapel Hospital in East London. Doctors hoped to slowly warm her blood and restart her body systems which had been slowed by extreme cold. People have survived submersion in cold water for long periods but Mrs Willis died shortly after

Mr Willis, a self-employed electrician and decorator, was submerged for more than two hours and was declared dead

at the scene.

Witnesses said the dog ran on to the ice where Mr Willis saw it was in trouble. He fell wife, who tried to reach him, also became trapped. Firemen stretched an inflatable bridge - normally used in rescues from mud flats - across the ice and inched their way to the spot where the pair, both 58

and from Upminster, were Mrs Willis was found first, standing upright, and pulled out by her clothes. She was unconscious but a doctor raised a heartbeat using electronic equipment. A police diver, PC Guy Hicks, working

in zero visibility, later found Mr Willis lying on the lake bed but, although he was given heart massage, there

vas no sign of life. Peter Odell, 44, a park ranger, described how he joined the rescue effort after the alarm was raised just before 9am. "When I arrived there was a man in a lifebelt in the water up to his waist. The other two had gone under by then. I believe he had got to one of them but could not hold on. He was himself clinging to the ice but could not pull himself out. His wife helped us get a rope to him and we hauled him on to the bank. He was shaking and his hands were turning blue. We wrapped him in overalls and coats. It was wonderful to get him out. At one stage we thought we were going to lose him too. He was very brave."

The second couple were both being treated for hypothermia last night.

The victims son, Steven said: "The whole thing has been a terrible shock. They were a very loving couple and at least they are together now. That is the only comfort we can take from it.

Mr Willis, a former chant Navy sailor, and his wife who have another son, Richard, had owned their pet.

Tara, for about a year.

The dog was like a third son to them," said Steven

Assistant Divisional Officer Barry Cable of Essex Fire and Rescue Service said it was an all-too-familiar accident. A year ago, an 11-year-old girl. Tracey Patterson, and two would-be rescuers, Michael Mee, 48, and Jack Crawshaw. Continued on page 2, col 3

Solicitors face £25m action

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SIXTY-FIVE solicitors' firms are being taken to the High Court over mortgage losses in an action that could eventually cost the profes-sion up to £25 million and change the system whereby one lawyer acts for both borrower and lender

in conveyancing deals.

The Bristol & West Building Society is suing over £6 million of property losses incurred between 1988 and 1991. It claims that the solicitors should have warned the society that their borrower-clients were a bad risk.

The Solicitors' Indemnity Fund, which would have to pay out on the

claims if the suit succeeded, knows of at least 80 similar cases and believes there could be up to 300 more, worth up to £25 million, awaiting the outcome of the Febru-

In common with other building socieities, the Bristol & West repossessed hundreds of properties at the peak of the market in the late 80s, but was then unable to recoup its losses when prices plummeted. Solicitors in conveyancing trans-

actions act both for borrower and lender, and the main issue in the case will be what duty the lawyer has to warn mortgage companies

about their clients' financial difficulties. The court will have to decide whether failure to pass on information amounted to a breach of contract, a breach of trust or

The Bristol & West claim covers 84 transactions involving properties of varying values. The society would not discuss the action, but a spokesman said: "It is our policy to seek redress for our members where we perceive there to be negligence, recklessness or fraud." Some of the issues raised by the action have already been aired in a

Continued on page 2, col 6

What a relief! For one moment I thought we were going to Charles"

Fears of new year IRA bombings

Significant changes to the membership of the army council of the Provisional IRA have added to fears that a bombing campaign is imminent. The police and MI5 were surprised that there was no pre-Christmas attack and are prepared for a terrorist campaign in the new year Everyone protected by police bodyguards have been warned that an assassination at-tempt is possible Page 4

Israel 'will stay in Hebron forever'

The Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, pledged that Israel would stay in Hebron permanently as he faced strong resistance from some of his ministers to a troop redeployment. Mr Netanyahu must seek the approval of the Cabinet after an agreement is signed transferring 80 per cent of Hebron to Palestinian control

The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk

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Posy for sweet William

MOST of the flowers being clutched by a group of very young children outside Sandringham parish church yesterday were for the Queen. But not the bunch of pink carnations in the hand of 15vear-old Alex Miller; they were for Prince William (Alan Hamilton writes).

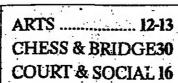
Alex hid herself among the

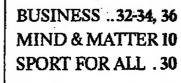
group of 26 three and four-year olds waiting for the royal family to emerge from Sunday morning service and waited until the others had presented their postes. When the Queen asked Alex if the flowers were for her, she replied,

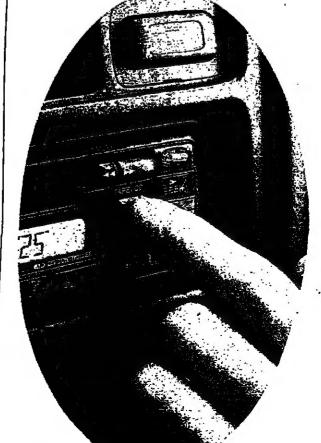
firmly, that they were for Prince William.

Enter the Prince of Wales, who tried to persuade Alex to hand over her posy to an intermediary. Prince Harry. But Alex stuck to her guns and her carnations until the somewhat embarrassed object of her desire was persuaded to step over and accept them personally.

"He came forward, went red, took the flowers, said thank you, and then walked away," Alex said later. "I think he is just lovely: what a marvellous boyfriend he would make."



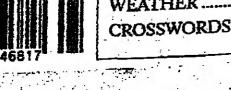




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Abortion is not an election issue, says Labour



Robertson: said that Labour

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR member of the Shadow Cabinet said yesterday that Labour MPs would not be cowed by the election threat posed by a new highly organised anti-abortion

George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, became the first senior party figure to speak against the challenge posed to Labour MPs by the Pro-Life Alliance, which is planning to fight at least 50 constituences. The alliance, bouyed by the attack on abortion yesterday by Cardinal Basil Hume. the Archbishop of Westminster, is planning to launch its manifesto in London at the end of January.

A film of an abortion during the late stages of pregnancy will be

shown. Depending on reaction to the film, the movement will decide whether to repeat the film during a party political election broadcast. which it will be granted if it fields 50 candidates.

Mr Robertson, MP for Hamilton, was saddened by the Pro-Life Alliance's decision to move abortion into the election arena. He said: Abortion has always been seen as a critical matter of conscience. That is the way it should always remain." He was among those who led

opposition to left-wing demands in the mid-1980s to make support for abortion a mandatory party policy for every Labour candidate, irrespective of their religious and moral beliefs. He easily beat off a deselection attempt in his constitu-

Proposals by trade union leaders to restore formal links with a Tony Blair-led government were swiftly rejected by the Labour party leadership yesterday. John Edmonds, leader of the GMB Union, has drawn up an election manifesto advocating the re-establihament of a formal forum in which union leaders could engage in dialogue with Cabinet ministers and employers. Stephen Byers, Labour's employment spokesman, said: There will be no return to the old days of beer and sandwiches at Number 10. We have no plans to set up any formal machinery of government of the type proposed by John Edmonds. We are not going back. We are going forward."

Mr Robertson said MPs whosupported a woman's right to choose would not be cowed. "The Labour Party is not going to be coerced. Individual Labour MPs are not going to be coerced into subverting their individual judg-ment by these sort of tactics. They will not work."

Cabinet who is not targeted is Tom Clarke, a Roman Catholic who is spokesman on the disabled. Tony Blair who opposes abortion but has never voted against it in the Commons, is unlikely to be opposed because the Tory and Liberal Democrat candidates in his constit-

uency are pro-life supporters. Clare Short, the Shadow Overseas Development Minister, attacked the intervention by Cardinal Hume. Ms Short, who had a strict Catholic upbringing, said: "It's very sad that the Catholic Church refreats back on to this territory. It lost almost all the women of my generation because of its attitude to sex. They suggest that abortion is the primary moral question; it is not." She said she favoured a law regulating the availability of abor-tion but leaving it to the individual to make her choice.

The Tories too have difficulties on the issue. Dr Robert Spink, the MP for Castle Point, broke ranks yesterday when he admitted he could not support a Tory candidate at the general election who supported abortion.

He told GMTV's programme Sunday. "I wouldn't vote for them.

That's my choice. I wouldn't advise anyone else how they should vote." Pressed over what he would do if he faced by a pro-life Labour candidate and a pro-choice Tory, he replied: "I would find it very difficult to vote for the Conservative candidate. I would probably spoil my ballot paper."

The Pro-Life Alliance has re-

ceived a piedge of £25,000 from Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, which will cover the ESOO deposits for 50 candidates. The remarks of Cardinal Hume are expected to give the organisation's fundraising activities a fillip.

The Pro-Life Alliance has indicated that it will challenge in the constituencies of up to eight Cabinet ministers, including the Chancellor, the Health Secretary and the

Tories face poll setback on cash for questions

JOHN MAJOR has been told that the potentially explosive report into the Commons cash for questions" inquiry. which has been dogged by delays, could be published only weeks before the general

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, who is conducting the investigation, had planned to write the report over Christmas. But so far he has not interviewed any lead-

ing witnesses.

The report into allegations that lan Greer, the lobbyist. paid MPs for raising Commons questions was due at the end of next month. It is now facing a delay of up to eight

Ministers are becoming increasingly alarmed about the electoral implications. The controversy took a new twist yesterday when it emerged that David Willetts, who resigned as Paymaster General after being accused of misleading an all-party committee over his part in the affair, is to be offered a role at Conservative Central Office in the run-

up to the election. Mr Willetts, MP for Havant, has not made up his mind on whether to accept the unpaid duties. He has had several offers of highly paid work in the City of London. He is understood to be in talks with Kleinwort Benson, the

merchant bank. A senior Tory party official said last night: "We want him back. He is highly regarded

and much missed. He has a decisive contribution to make and earned great honour for resigning quickly."

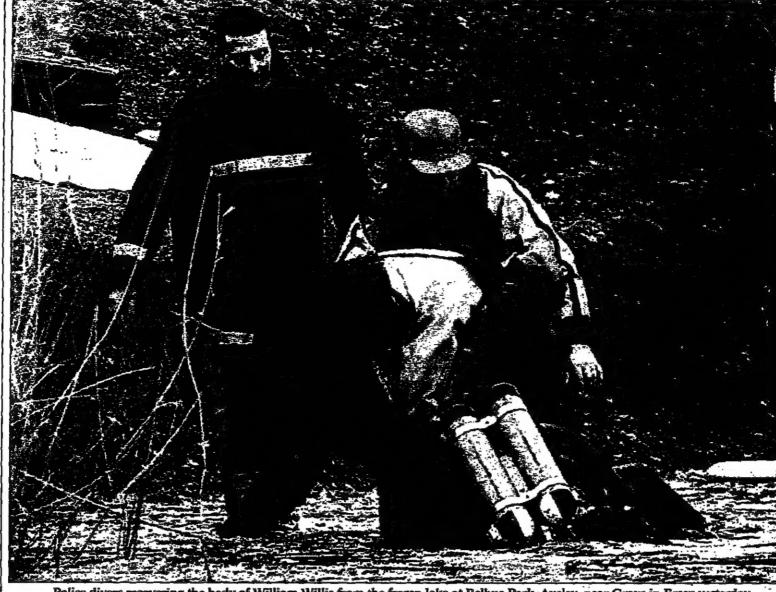
One option would be to make Mr Willetts an unpaid vice-chairman, but the Prime Minister is wary of giving him such a formal role after he was so heavily criticised by the Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges. which has a Tory majority.

Many senior Tories believe that Mr Willetts will be lured by the prospect of a City salary but will combine those duties with part-time work for Central Office on election strategy.

But the more pressing issue for the Tory high command is the delay in Sir Gordon's inquiry. Neil Hamilton, who resigned as a trade minister over the "cash for questions" allegations, and Mr Greer have lodged the relevant paperwork with Sir Gordon. Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer, who dropped a libel case against The Guardian, which printed the allegations, face cross-examination in private by a Treasury solicitor. No date has been fixed.

Both men are anxious for the inquiry, which was set up in October, to proceed without

Sir Gordon has been constrained by resources and has complained that he has not even got adequate photo-copying machinery He is intent on interviewing some of the 25 MPs who received money for their general election fighting funds from Mr Greet.



Couple die in lake attempting to rescue dog

Continued from page 1 died in West Yorkshire when she chased a dog on to a frozen lake. Mr Cable said: "At this time of year you can almost write the script. It may

sound hard-hearted but if your dog falls through ice you should leave it. They are generally able to get out."

His team of 30 men also used a thermal imaging camera to try to find the bodies. Axes and grappling hooks were used to smash the ice and probe for the missing couple. He estimated

that the ice was more than an inch thick on parts of the lake.

Sergeant Nigel Dermott, diving officer for Essex Police, said: "In those conditions visibility is zero and you work entirely by feel.

The longest I have known anyone survive under water is 45 minutes. The woman had been under there for something like an hour and a half. Although there was a heart beat after she came out and you are always hopeful, you have to be realistic."

After treatment at Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, the condition of the two passers-by who attempted to rescue the victims was said to be much improved.

Neighbours of Mr and Mrs Willis, who lived within a ten-minute drive of the park, spoke of their shock. The dead man was semi-retired and his wife worked as a legal secretary in the City. They hoped to retire to Sussex in the near future, said Kenneth Gill, 72. a

neighbour. The couple's dog, aged between two

and three years, was taken to a nearby kennels where it was said to be in excellent condition.

There have been some remarkable cases of people surviving sub-zero temperatures for long periods which have stopped their hearts. The cold has the effect of closing down most body systems which can be restarted by gentle warming. The longest recorded period in which a person's heart had stopped before being revived is three

hours and 40 minutes.

Major launches campaign offensive

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A GENERAL election campaign set to be one of the launched yesterday by John Major. He declared that Britain faced the stark choice of stability and prosperity under the Tories or a leap into the unknown with Labour.

In a clear indication that the election campaign will revolve around the economy, Mr Major set out pledges on tax, prices, mortgages and jobs, and claimed that they would win the Tories a fourth successive election.

But in an immediate resumption of hostilities John Prescott, the Deputy Labour eader, accused the Prime Minister of having launched a Get Blair campaign in his

Mr Major, in his letter to Conservative associations, said that the Tories had cut the basic rate of tax from 33 pence to 23 pence and were committed to cutting it to 20 pence. They were pledged to keep inflation under control, keep mortgages down, create more jobs, and to opposing a faderal Europe. Mr. Major, in an attempt to gain credit for the return of the feel-good" fac-Government which achieved the economic turn-

"I know how hard the British people have had to work to make life better in this country," he said. "As a result, we have made real gains more spending money, more jobs and record investment. I know too how easy it would be to lose these hard-won gains." Mr Prescott said: "This is

Irauma silen

the start of the £7 million 'Get Blair offensive... financed by sleazy foreign backers whose identities are being kept

THERE IS

ONLY ONE SALE PREVIEW.

From 1st - 4th January, Harrods Account Customers are offered an exclusive Preview of the Sale in all Furniture, Carpets and Sound & Vision Departments on the Third Floor, and in Major Household Appliances and Silverware Departments on the Second Floor. This offer will enable all Account Customers to order certain sale goods prior to the start of the Sale and to take advantage of the extra 10% saving which will be offered on the Account Customers Day, Saturday 11th January.

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Harrolls Ltd., Knightshridge, London SWIX IXL, Telephone 0171-730 1254.

NEWS REPORT TO THE PROPERTY OF Death toll from E.coli

outbreak reaches 16

A 91-year-old woman has died after being infected by the E.coli bacterium in Scotland, bringing the death toll to 16. Lanarkshire Health Board said the woman died in Monklands Hospital. Airdrie, yesterday. The toll is the largest number of deaths in a single outbreak of Ecoli forgest number of deaths in a single outstreak of E.Cott food-poisoning since 19 pensioners died in a Canadian nursing home in 1985. A health board spokesman said the woman, who has not been named, had been infected by E.coli 0157 though products purchased from John M. Barr and Son, a butcher's shop in Wishaw, Strathelyde, There are saill 318 people showing symptoms of the infection.

Young Scots back independence

More than half of young Scots support independence, according to a poll in Scotland on Sunday. Fifty-two per cent of those between 18 and 25 said their best prospects lay in an independent Scotland, with a further 31 per cent backing a devolved parliament. If there were a referendum, 70 per cent would vote for a devolved parliament.

Bronze Age artefacts unearthed

The foundations of a Bronze Age settlement have been found during digging work for an hotel at Templepatrick. Co Antrim. Archaeologists have uncovered three sites but believe there were six homes in the area from an ancient farming community. Pottery, flint implements, arrowheads and a quern for grinding wheat have been unearthed.

Lights out' jet scare investigated

British Airways is to investigate a pilot's claims that a 747's mid-air near-miss with another jumbo over the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan was caused by a company policy to save on light bulbs by having landing lights switched off above 10.000ft. BA said the recommendation was made because the lights could dazzle pilots in cloud.

Scotland Yard aids Cuba drug war

Two Scotland Yard officers are to travel to Cuba next month to help Fidel Castro's Government to combat cocaine smuggling from Venezuela and Colombia. It follows a successful initiative involving Customs and Excise staff and is expected to lead to Cuban police officers receiving training in Britain.

Surfing dog surfaces

The stolen surfing dog has been found. Max vanished on Christmas Eve after being tied to railings outside a shop in Haverfordwest. Pembrokeshire, His owner. Peter Bounds, 47, was requited with the mongrel that he taught to surfafter a woman was seen walking Max in the town centre. She is assisting police inquiries.

Lawyers

Continued from page I string of court rulings and Court of Appeal in individual cases over the past two years, but this is the first case involving a large number of

Earlier this month, the High Court held that solicitors did have a duty to inform mortgage companies about bad-risk clients. In that case, the borrowers were £4,000 behind with their mortgage repayments when they took out a £91,000 loan with the National Home Loans Corporation. When they defaulted on their payments, the corporation was unable to recover its losses because of the fall in property prices. Awarding 180,000 damages against the solicitors, the Judge Graeme Hamilton QC said the loss was caused by the corporation "embarking upon a course of action upon which it would not have embarked had it been given the correct information. The duty in this case is to supply information."
In April, in another case

brought by the Bristol & West against 13 firms of solicitors, Mr Justice Chadwick ruled that when a solicitor acted for both buyer and lender, he held the money in trust for the lender. The solicitor was in breach of trust, the judge said, if he parted with the money having failed to disclose relevant facts to the lender - but the lender would have to show that his loss would not otherwise have occurred.

Two years ago, the Law solicitors should no longer be able to act for borrowers and lenders. But the proposals were decisively rejected in a consultation of the profession and the society is now drafting new standard mortgage procedures to make solicitors' du-

SHED A FEW POUNDS AFTER

CHRISTMAS.

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EXAMPLES OF REDUCTIONS	WAS	PRICE
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Pure wool jackets	£395	£195
Cotton business shirts (Buy 3 or more at £35 each)	£59	£39
Silk ties (Buy 3 or more at £20 each)	£49	£24.50
Church's suede brogues GATLE ROW ONLY	£195	£125
(subject to available	lity)	



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Ayckbourn falls out with resort that can't spend a penny

THAT devoted old couple, the playwright Alan Ayckbournt and the sedate old town of Scarborough, have fallen out after a relationship lasting 40

The dispute, as ever, is over money. A theatre opened by Ayckbourn in the Yorkshire resort in April is in such dire financial straits that it has asked the local council for an extra £50,000 a year for five years to stay in business. The council, faced with £750,000 of spending cuts, says that if it funds the theatre it will have to close the town's 22 public

Ayckbourn, who has had a love affair with Scarborough since getting his first job as an assistant stage manager there in the 1950s, and who has a house in the town, has turned against his adopted home after a barrage of criticism in the local press from council tax-payers who appear to prefer the convenience of lavatories to the culture of theatre.

The Stephen Joseph Theatre, named after Ayckbourn's theatrical mentor, opened in a former cinema in April at a cost of £5.2 million, of which £400,000 came from Ayek-



Ayckbourn: given his first job in Scarborough

National Lottery grant and much of the rest from local donations. In the eight months since it opened, the theatre's operating losses have reached £825,000.

A waspish Ayckbourn said yesterday: "Scarborough cannot go around calling itself the Queen of the Watering Places when the North Sea is so polluted. If you happen to be a teetotaller in this town, God help you, because there is little. else to do apart from get drunk and buy shoes. The reasons for coming here are getting less and less." All Ayckbourn

of the Labour-controlled council, said yesterday: "Grand it is basic housekeeping which has to be observed in a time of economies. I want to see what the theatre is going to do; we did ask for accounts and a business plan two months ago in October, but we have not yet had them." Scarborough, which claims

staged first in Scarborough

before transferring to the West

End, allowing audiences to see shows at a fraction of London

The theatre is named after the son of the publisher Mich-

ael Joseph and the actress

Hermione Gingold, a director who introduced theatre in the round to Scarborough and who, before his death in 1967,

was a major influence on

the choice facing the council

on funding, have filled the

letters columns of local newspapers. "Why is the theatre

treated differently? How will

people visiting our town feel

when they find there are no public toilets for their use?"

Councillors have not vet

made a final decision on

whether to bail out the theatre

which, now that the Floral

Hall has closed and the Scar-

borough Opera House has

burnt down, is one of the town's few remaining tourist

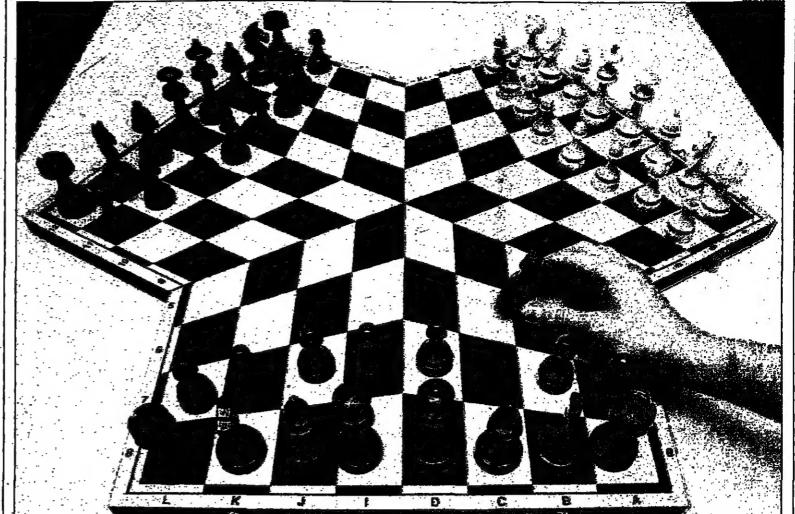
Dorothy Clegg, a member

one wrote.

Irate taxpayers, informed of

to have pioneered the concept of a seaside resort in Victorian times, has had a difficult year. In June it offered to foot the £20,000 hotel bill for the Bulgarian football team competing in the Euro 96 tournament to stay near by at Ravenscar; the team declared themselves so bored that they moved out and paid £108 per head per night for rooms in faraway but more exciting Stockton-on-Tees. Also, government auditors

found that Scarborough council spent less per head of population on sports facilities than any other resort in North Yorkshire, despite being one of the county's busiest tourist



A board of 96 squares is the battleground for three sets of the usual pieces. A player reaching the centre can attack either or both opponents

Snowbound stalemate was the opening move for invention of three-way chess

THREE'S a crowd when they are snowbound in a Scottish house for five weeks with only a chess set for amusement. There will always he someone left out as the two others pore over their pieces for hours on

Stranded with two friends at his home at Dunkeld, Perthshire, Khia Rasmussin, a joiner and chess player, set about inventing a version of the game that could be played by three people simultaneously. Eleven years and £40,000 worth of investment later, three-way chess is about to be launched by a Brighton-based

ames company. The board consists of three pents gons of 96 black and white squ compared to the normal 64. Each player has the usual 16 pieces, which are black, white and red. Checkmate

the centre of the board can choose to attack either or both opponents. The game, which has been tested by players from schoolchildren to grandmasters all over Europe, is claimed to increase excitement and to reduce the likelihood of a match ending in stalemate.

George Barrett, managing director of the company marketing the game, said yesterday that test marketing had shown that children grasped the concept of the game more quickly than adults. Top players found that it helped them to sharpen up for important matches. They have to think more quickly and a lot of the textbook on preplanned moves and defences has to

be thrown out of the window." Interest in the game is said to be strong in the United States, Switzerland and the Scandinavian coun-

with the risk of being cut off by blizzards for long periods with not much to do except to trap beavers, carve cuckoo clocks or consume dangerous amounts of vodka.

The makers hope eventually for a substantial market in Russia, a country with long experience of severe weather and chess. But even in those countries where winter diversions are at a premium, chess for three has never quite caught on.

Raymond Keene, chess correspondent of The Times, pointed out yesterday that the first game of threeway chess had been invented by Captain Philip Marinelli in 1722 and attracted among its enthusiasts Prince Eugene of Savoy, who fought with the Duke of Mariborough at the Battle of Blenheim. The Marinelli board had 136 squares. There have been many versions of three-person

hexagonal board invented by Zigmund Wellisch in 1912.

Mr Keene said: "Traditional chess is a very good game, you would need something preity brilliant to replace it. Besides, there is something fundamental about a contest between two

Many variations of chess have been marketed, including a Christmas version launched in 1988, in which each player has three kings. Those frightened by the intellectual challenge of the latest version may take comfort from the fact that the 96square, three-way board can also be used for a version of draughts, should you be holed up in a blizzard with two companions who think the Sicilian defence is something to do with bribing judges in Palermo.

Chess, page 30

Trauma silences | Church locks out raped 9-year-old

The Stephen Joseph Theatre has run up losses of

£825,000 in the eight months since it opened

A GIRL aged nine who was raped with her mother on Boxing Day was last night still too traumatised to tell police about her ordeal.

erre dus

The girl's mother, 53, who was the first to be assaulted by the intruder who broke into their bedroom, has told police that both she and her daughter were threatened with a knife. Detective Chief Inspector Heather Valentine, the detective leading the hunt, the most appalling assaults I have ever heard of.

The rapist, who held the weapon against the girl's throat while raping her, is believed to have a second to held the second to believed to have taken the knife from the kitchen of the flat where the pair were tives in Northolt, west

The attacker threatened to kill them if they screamed and the distraught woman was forced to watch while he raped her daughter. After their thirty minute ordeal he demanded money and then calmly emptied the woman's purse on the bed and took some cash before

Detective Chief Inspector Valentine said: This is an horrendous attack on two totally innocent people. For a mother and daughter to be both attacked and for both to witness the attacks on each

other is appalling.
There is no doubt they feared for their lives. This man said he would kill them. They are being cared for by specially trained women police offi-cers. The little girl is absolutely traumatised and it is imperative we catch this

The relatives they were stay-ing with had gone out when the intruder broke in through a patio door and attacked them. Police searched the area within minutes but could find no trace of him. The white man has blonde or light brown hair, bobbed to his ears and shaved at the neck, and is slim and clean-shaven, with chiselled features. He was wearing a distinctive blue sweatshirt with the letters USA in red on the chest. He had jeans and a black bomber jacket with orange or yellow lining as well as white, possi-

feuding villagers

PARISHONERS were locked out of church yesterday in the latest twist to a dispute over the ordination of women that has led to the cancellation of Christmas services. Worshippers at 14th-century

St Mary's, Colkirk, Norfolk, were shut out after the church council resigned after a vote of no confidence by villagers. In the summer the council forced the incoming vicar, the Rev David Burrell, 39. to resign when members discovered he supported the ordination of women. They had threatened to boycott services. The inci-dent was believed to be the first of its kind in the Church of England.

Since then the village has been divided. Diana Beck, vice chair of the church council, and seven colleagues, resigned after the vote of no confidence in the council was passed at a

public meeting.
Mrs Beck said: "This nonsense has been dragging on for months and it has been very unpleasant. We are all very unhappy and upset. Our churchwarden has been the subject of personal attacks in tion of myself and the the parish magazine and our archdeacon."

regular prayer meeting was sabotaged by the calling of the public meeting on the same night. We felt we couldn't go on after the meeting decided they had lost confidence in us. We have been without a vicar for 20 months and after what has happened I fear a lot of people will not worship at Colkirk again."

There were complaints from villagers at the public meeting that they could not attend a non-Eucharist service at St Mary's. Janet Stangroom, from the neighbouring parish of Whissonsett, said: Some people felt that the High Church tone was too rich for them. A lot of the people who wanted to go were not con-firmed and could not take Communion. It was felt that the church council was not

fairly representing the views of the majority of the parish." The Rev Brian Cole, the Rural Dean who is looking after Colkirk until a new vicar is found, said: "We hope to resume services again at Colkirk in the new year but they will be under the jurisdic-

ANOTHER **PRESS AD**



HONDA

for RDS radio.

Teenagers want to give up smoking

THE most popular new year resolution among tecnagers is to give up smoking, accord-ing to a poll published yesterday. Others intend to stop

drinking.
Parents disturbed that their children have taken up the habits in the first place may be cheered that there were also resolutions by the 14-to 18-year-olds to do better in examinations, to work harder and to save money.

While many of the 2,000 temagers polled by NatWest bank appeared to spend money on tobacco and alcohol, the budgets of most them went on traditional pursuits. CDs, tapes, clothes, magazines, sweets and the cinema all accounted for more of their spending.

Franco Zazzera of NatWest said: "I don't think it is all bad news and actually proves

1 Stop smoking 3 Work harder

4 Do well in exams 5 Waste less money 6 - Do better at school Respect people more

8 Stop biting uails 9 Stop drinking 10 Eat less

wild as we think. The resolution to save money is very high up on the list for boys

and top of the list for girls.
Teenagers come in for a drugs and the like, but that is really a manifestation of the minority. Most are quite their pocket money or wages from part-time jobs."

1 Save money 2 Stop smoking 3 Stop biting nails 4 Work harder

5 Do better at school 6 Eat less

8 = Be more tidy, Do well in exams

for boys they were Arnold Schwarzenegger and Pamela Anderson on the screen and Eric Cantona and Alan girls, they were Brad Pitt and Keanu Reeves at the cinema and Linford Christie and Ryan Giggs in the sporting

Both sexes gave Oasis as their favourite band; the sec-

the Spice Girls and for girls it was Peter Andre. ☐ Applying political correct-ness to children's books has been undermined by the readers themselves. Surrey University's Rochampton Institute, which questioned 9,000 children, found they did not feel it important to see images of themselves in literature.

Roald Dahl and Enid Blyton were the top two authors for children aged seven to 16. Horror was the most popular genre for ado-lescents, but romance was a turn-off for girls of all ages. Children aged four to seven related most in their choice

reading helped them to un-

Changes in IRA may point to a new onslaught

SIGNIFICANT changes to the membership of the army council of the Provisional IRA have added to fears that a bombing campaign in Britain is imminent.

The police and MI5 were surprised that there was no pre-Christmas bomb attack and are fully prepared for a terrorist campaign in the new year. The security authorities remain at a heightened state of alert and all individuals protected by 24-hour police bodyguard teams have been warned that an assassination

attempt is possible. The election of a new chief of staff to the seven-man IRA army council, the principal decision-making body within the terrorist organisation, has provided the clearest proof that the republicans' parallel strategy of politics and the bullet has now tilted strongly

■ The terrorists' new chief of staff is a man with a hawkish reputation. The security forces expect an eruption of violence, at least in the short term, Michael Evans writes

in favour of a full-scale campaign of violence.

The former chief of staff. who is ill, has been replaced by one of the most hawkish and operationally effective IRA godfathers for the past 20 years. His reputation for violence and his hatred of the British is legendary, yet he has never been convicted of being a member of the IRA. He is believed to have been on the army council for many years. but never as chief of staff. He cannot be named because he has never been charged with a terrorist offence.

election to the top strategy position on the army council disclosed more about the way Sinn Fein and the IRA were heading than any public statement by Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein.

Richard McAuley, spokesman for Sinn Fein, yesterday dismissed a report in The Sunday Times that Mr Adams and Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, had been elected to the army council at an IRA army convention two months ago.

A spokesman for the Royal

Ulster Constabulary declined to comment on the newspaper sources said it was common for members of Sinn Fein to have roles in both the political organisation and the IRA hierarchy. If Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness were to be for-mally elected to the council, this would be another indication of how the attitude of the IRA towards the peace process

The distinction between the IRA and Sinn Fein is viewed by the security authorities as purely symbolic. However, one security source said that a deliberate move to put Sinn Fein's leading figures on to the IRA army council would be seen as politically risky, "if Mr Adams wishes to maintain the fiction of two separate ganisations".

The changes in the membership of the army council do not necessarily indicate a total



Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness: Sinn Fein denies that they have joined the IRA army council

collapse of the peace process. Unlike Middle Eastern terrorist groups, in which powerful individuals can dominate strategy, the IRA still relies on

which the principal aim is to maintain unity.

staff, who has never been a member of Sinn Fein, has

can movement that his influence in the top job is expected to lead, at least in the short term, to an eruption of violence in Northern Ireland and

Sinn Fein said yesterday that one of its members on Belfast City Council, Alex Maskey, had been warned by police of an imminent attempt on his life. The party said Mr Maskey had been told that the RUC had information that his life was in danger and that he should step up his personal security.

The warning came hours after a booby-trap bomb was found on Saturday under a car. belonging to Liam Duffy, the Sinn Fein director of elections in Londonderry and a former

republican prisoner. Nine days ago Eddie Cope-land, a leading Belfast repubwhen a bomb exploded under his car as he drove away from his mother's home in the Ardoyne area of the city.

Mogul on she ine in

There has been no admission of responsibility for either incident, but the loyalist Ulster Freedom Fighters are believed to be behind the new offensive, heightening fears that the loyalist ceasefire is collapsing.

An injured IRA bomb-maker was believed to be on the run after an aborted bomb attack on the security forces in Belfast on Friday night. Police found suspected bomb-making components at a house in west Belfast after an explo-

Six men arrested by the RUC in a subsequent security operation were still being

Home Office urges caution on tagging

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS have been warned that more work needs to be done before the controversial scheme for electronic tagging of offenders is introduced across the country.

A Home Office report published today says that the cost of implementing electronic taggin, nationally would be high unless the idea became much more popular with the courts. Ministers view a greater use of tagging as a costeffective method of dealing with offenders and as a means of easing pressure on the prison system.

The Prison Service is en-

gaged in a desperate search for emergency accommoda-tion to deal with the rapidly rising prison population. As this month, it has submitted a planning application to moor a floating jail, Resolution, in Portland Harbour, Dorset. It would hold up to 500 low-risk

category inmates. Today's report into the first year of the £2.4 million electronic tagging trials shows that 75 per cent of tagged offenders completed their cur- people.

(Faster 33 & modern - see Options) FREE Laker Product (Grobel offer)

few order. It estimated the average cost of tagging at £675 per offender per month, compared with £1,555 a month for an immate held in a category C jail. A total of 33 offenders were tagged for the initial trial in Greater Manchester, Reading and Norfolk.

Five of the 19 offenders who failed the test removed the tagging device from their bodies. Another five failed because of a series of absences during the curfew period. Others damaged the home monitoring unit, gave false information to the court, or withdrew their consent to the tagging order. A total of 236 people have been tagged since the experiment began in July

Baroness Blatch, a junior Home Office minister, said the research suggested a growing confidence in tagging among judges and magistrates. But Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, said no long-term conclusion about the effectiveness of tagging could be drawn from a study of only 83



50 ballet students from around the world. The most promising will compete for gold, silver and bronze Adeline Genée awards next Sunday

Teacher's case gives voice to an occupational hazard

PATRICIA CLOWRY, a former primary school teacher in Newcastle-under-Lyme, had a normal voice until her class of seven-year-olds expanded to 44 in 1987. Constantly talking, and presumably occasionally shouting, took its toll on the teacher's vocal cords and her voice became a hoarse

Mrs Clowry, 53, needed three operations to remove nodules from the cords. She can now speak normally again, although she cannot return to teaching. She has had to take an office job but has battled for seven years to have her laryngeal troubles recognised as being the result of her teaching, and therefore an occupational disease. An industrial tribunal has now agreed that her condition was related to her job.

It has always been acknowledged that actors, sergeantmajors, clergymen and others who are always talking or shouting as part of their occupations are likely to develop nodules on their vocal cords, but Mrs Clowry's case will lead to claims from people in many other jobs.

Just before Christmas, one



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

polyp removed from his laryngeal cord. He enjoys a glass of port and a cigar and, as his job is selling, he does a least is selling, he does a lot of talking. He also cheers his children from the touchline at school rugby matches. Is the banker suffering from an occupational disease as a result of his selling, or is it a hazard of having athletic children, or a penalty for enjoying good wine and cigars? Industrial injury tribunals may now find that they have to decide on

many such cases. Polyps and nodules have to be distinguished from malignant disease of the vocal cord and an expert opinion is required, as they must be removed and examined under a microscope. Voice lessons, so that the vocal cords and the small muscles which work

of my patients, a banker, had a them are not over-strained. may prevent a recurrence of the polyps and nodules. In some cases, as with Mrs Clowry, a change of job is recommended.

Laryngeal diseases are more likely to affect those whose cords have been irritated by fumes caused by tobacco, alcohol or a polluted atmosphere. They cause hoarseness and loss of voice. which is worse after prolonged

Hoarseness which persists for more than a month, despite adequate treatment of any infection, needs investigation to exclude malignant disease. Malignant tumours of the vocal cord are more common in men than women and affect those who smoke and drink to excess, more often than the absternious.

Sound of sea ends agony of tinnitus

By NIGEL HAWKES

PEOPLE who suffer from a ringing in the ears are being urged to listen to the gentle sound of waves lapping on the shore and to the cry of

Bill Howard, a sufferer of tinnitus, a condition that leads to ringing, humming or shrilling sounds in the ears, has spent hours recording the soothing sounds on a beach in the Solway Firth. The tapes he has made are now used by hundreds of people to help them to cope with the

Many claim that listening to the tapes has transformed their lives. Students who were about to give up their studies because of the condition have decided to carry on, while people who leared they would have to retire are continuing in their jobs. One former policeman is again attending concerts, which he had been forced to give up because of the noises in his ears.

Mr. Howard, 72, a retired in Hull, endured high-pitched ing noises, persistent humming and even a bird singing shrilly. He now considers himself cured after learning to ignore the constant, nagging

noises. His therapeutic tape was recorded in the early hours of the morning at a small sandy beach on the Solway Firth after a long hunt for the right location. He said: "I tried rivers and streams but, by trial and error, I found the best noise was small wavelets breaking on rocks and seabird sounds in the background.

"It is extremely difficult to find a place where you can get the right sounds for any length of time. The slightest breeze can spoil it by blowing on the microphone and you need somewhere where there are going to be no noisy planes, cars, ships on the horizon or children playing."

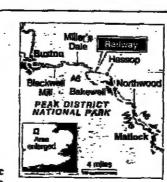
Mr Howard and the Hull tinnitus group have produced about 1,500 tapes which they have sent to other groups and hospitals around the country. £11,500 award from the National Lottery to produce a more professional version of the tape. He said: The tape makes the sound of tinnitus retreat and people begin to stop being anxious about it. That reduces the tendency to depression and they can do things they couldn't do before. The tape has helped hundreds of people but there are millions who need help."

Mind and Matter, page 10

New life for Peak **District** rail line

A EI2 MILLION rail scheme tourist pressure on one of Britain's most picturesque beauty spots.

A study has found that reopening the Buxton to Matlock rail service in the Derbyshire Peak District would attract more than 200,000 passengers a year. But the high cost of restoring the 20-mile line has forced Derbyshire County Council to seek financial help, including a request for a National Lottery grant. Four of the 40 bridges and viaducts on the route will have to be rebuilt. This project would pro-



vide a vital link for the area and take cars and heavy lorries off the road," Martin Doughty, the council leader, said. "By working in co-operation with other local authorities and rail operating companies, we hope to attract funding and make progress with this exciting scheme."

The project would include running weekend heritage services operated by steam or diesel locomotives between Matlock and Buston. The line could also carry throughpassenger traffic and freight.

Blind angry at plan to change Braille

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

MANY of Britain's blind people are angry over a plan to change the Braille read-bytouch system which has been virtually unaltered since its invention in 1829.

The Braille Authority of the United Kingdom wants to bring the system into line with that of other English-speaking countries by introducing capitalised letters to a code which has previously used

only lower-case characters. The move, which has alarmed a significant number of blind people among Brit-ain's estimated 12,000 Braille readers, comes after a consultative questionnaire earlier this year analysed at Birming ham University. Of 1,200

Z7 per cent objected to any change and S5 per cent

Braille, devised by Louis Braille (1809-52), a French educationist, is based upon a cell, or matrix, system of six raised dots arranged to represent each character in the alphabet and several shortform words.

Opponents of the change say that an extra cell will be required before each letter to denote a capital. Supporters say that it will prevent ambiguity, such as in "polish/ Polish", and make capitalised abbreviations

recognisable The Royal National Instirute for the Blind declined to Braille readers who replied, comment on the controversy.



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Royal Collection to exhibit manuscript made for Emperor who built the Taj Mahal

Mogul masterpiece on show for first time in 200 years

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

A ITTH-CENTURY Mogul manuscript presented to George III in 1797 is to be exhibited in public for the first

Onslaugh

The Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace will dis-play the Padshahnama manu-- described as "an historical testament to one of the greatest eras of cultural achievement in the history of India" - in March. It will form one of four exhibitions planned for next year, reflecting a decision approved by the Queen that the Royal Collection should be more active.

Other exhibitions for next ear include 18th-century views of Windsor in water colours by Thomas and Paul Sandby (the Royal Collection world's largest collection of their watercolours and drawings); portrait miniatures by Holbein and Hilliard; and photographs of Queen Victoria and her relatives. Exhibi-tions for 1998 include "Michelangelo and his Influ-



George III: he received the manuscript in 1797

of the Royal Collection, said that, apart from 30,000 drawings which are too delicate to be on permanent view, most holdings were on dis-play. He rejected suggestions that treasures were often hidden from the public. It is infuriating to read that the



One of the 18th-century watercolours of Windsor

highly visible." The collection. seen by more than five million people a year, is spread pri-marily between Hampton Court, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Buckingham Palace and Windsor.

George III received the Padshahnama — meaning The Chronicle of the King of the World — through Lord Teignmouth, Governor-Gen-eral of India, from the Nawab of Lucknow. Theresa-Mary Morton, of the Royal Collec-tion, said: "It has remained one of the great treasures of the Royal Collection."

Until recently, when it required some minor conserva-tion, it had been impossible to exhibit it because its 239 folios were bound together. Following displays in London and in India, for the liftieth anniversary of independence, it will be rebound. Ms Morton said that this was probably the only time in its history that it could be shown. The Padshahnama, which

still retains the original silk cloth in which it was presented to George III, is as valuable to historians as to art scholars. Its text — with 44 illustrations including a court scene, a procession and a hunt traces the first ten years of the reign of Shah Jahan, who built the Taj Mahal for his favourite wife and who was the wealthiest and most powerful of the Mogul Emperors from the 16th to 18th centuries.

Ms Morton said that Shah. Jahan insisted that major events associated with his reign be recorded and, in 1639, he commissioned Abdu-Hamid Lahawri to create a lavish historical record. Only one copy is known to have been made during his lifetime and the illustrations came from the greatest artists of the

imperial workshop.
Shah Jahan's reign witnessed heights of technical perfection that were never surpassed, said Ms Morton, nama's realism and attention

religious community centre by the Thames next to a half-

with a professed emphasis on the young, is no more or less

ambitious a scheme than

many others proposed for the millennium, which have the

common feature of an ex-tremely short time in which

they can be built.

But the Prince is keen to

redress his balance of interests

in favour of the Christian

Church after his well-publicised and long-standing

stance in favour of a greater



Pupils get credit for good behaviour

BY PAUL WILKINSON

SCHOOLCHILDREN are beng rewarded for good behaviour in class with a credit card to spend on burgers, clothes and football matches.

Staff at the Sir Henry Cooper School in Hull say their pioneering reward scheme has already produced a marked improvement in the children's performance and attitude. Pupils are awarded points for good attendance, punctuality, classwork, sporting achievements and extra activities. When they reach 25 points they are given a card which is accepted at a variety of places in the city where they receive either a discount or free entry. Supporters of the scheme include McDonald's, Hull City Football Club, bowling alleys, ice rinks, cinemas and clothes shops.

Mick Taylor, head of English at the 900-pupil compre-hensive who helped to devise the scheme, said: "A lot of teachers have noticed a big improvement in attendance, especially among the borderline students. The credit scheme is a real incentive because it allows them to do things they like more cheaply."

So far 160 pupils have joined the scheme, which was launched at the start of the Christmas term. Each carries a card which staif sign when the pupil has reached certain

targets.
Fifteen organisations have agreed to accept the smart card, but more are to join soon. The cards bear the school logo, a picture and signature of the cardholder and the year head's signature. Fiona Holland, a senior

teacher who worked on the scheme, said: "The cards have given motivation for children who were not fulfilling all the criteria. Those who get on with their work and don't demand our attention all the time are rewarded for their efforts."

Gemma Mason and Emily Heppell-Smith, both 11, use their cards at McDonald's. Emily said: "We work harder at school to get the points. I am always counting how many points I need to get my card." Gemma said: "The teachers have come up with a good plan because we get something we enjoy for our work.

Prince puts his faith in Battersea plan for spiritual power station

porting a plan to build a 10,000-seat ecumenical church to celebrate the millennium. During the past year he has complained that schemes to celebrate the new century were insufficiently spiritual.

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hadati.

The project, using an empty site next to Battersea power station in central London, is still at the drawing-board stage and will need £50 miltion from the National Lottery Millennium Fund. Promoters of the scheme, including the merchant bankers Warburg, have proposed a church, religious conference centre and notel open to Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Nonconformists and other denominations. The Prince has agreed that his Projects Office, an offshoot of his Institute of Architecture, should advise on

was reinforced yesterday by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has recently returned from a meeting with the Pope in Rome. Dr George Carey told GMTV: "Unity is essen-

THE Prince of Wales is sup-porting a plan to build a all Christian denominations. We know that unreconciled Christianity gets in the way of the mission of the Church, and we've got to do it. Exciting things have happened in our day - Christian groups are coming together more closely

than they have ever done." Dr Carey urged the Church to pay more attention to youth culture. "Sometimes older people are secretly afraid of young people, and they think young people are very sur-prised by that."



James's Palace last week indicate that he will pay more attention in public engage-ments to the Church of England, of which he is a practising member and of which one day he will be titular head in Britain.

His advisers, anxious to promote a positive image of the heir to the throne now that his divorce is out of the way, are aware that the Prince's desire for better relations with Islam, although widely praised, are in danger of upsetting traditionalist British

A Palace source said yester day: "The Prince is, and always has been, a practising Anglican, although he has always been in favour of a greater understanding of other religions represented in Britain. But as he moves towards his eventual role as monarch, it is sensible that he be seen to be taking a closer interest in the traditional religion of the country."

The former Battersea power station: a 10,000-seat ecumenical church is planned for the site next door Church and I long for unity. Royal trust given £2.5m in lottery cash to help disadvantaged youth

By Alexandra Frean

THE Prince of Wales's charity for young people, The Prince's Trust, is to receive more than £2.5 million of National Lottery money to distribute to about 2,500

disadvantaged youngsters.

The grant, to be announced today by Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, is part of E10 million for the Millernium Commission's Awards Scheme, which is designed to channel lottery cash to individuals rather than building projects, organisations, groups or charities. The money will be distributed on behalf of the commission by eight ed on behalf of the commission by eight "award partners", existing charities with a proven track record of making grants to

The British Trust for Conservation dunteers and the mental health charity MIND are expected to be named today as nince's Trust. News of the grant is nium theme, such as preserving the

expected to provide a much-needed public relations victory for the Millennium

Both it and the Government are hoping that the Millennium Awards, which are meant to help individuals to fulfil their personal aspirations, will bring a popular touch back to the process of distributing lottery money and will restore the credibility of the commission as a distrib-

utor of largesse. There is a widespread feeling in Westminster that the lottery has been one of the higgest missed PR opportunities of the current administration, with most people thinking the money is spent on major building projects. "It is often the flagship capital projects that get the headlines but it is actually individuals that make a difference to the community-

a commission source said. Projects undertaken by individuals artners, along with others and the using lottery money must have a millen-

must also benefit the community. The Prince's Trust is expected to aim its 2,500 awards at disadvantaged young people who might not normally be identified as worthy recipients of public funds. The grants will help individuals to learn

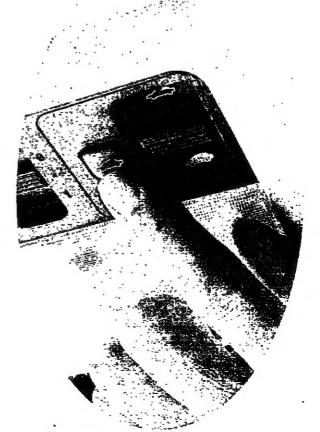
practical skills such as carpentry.

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, which usually helps to fund projects such as path-clearing over public land, will make 1,000 grants to help individuals to develop leadership skills MIND will make 500 awards to individuals or small groups involved in working to take away the stigma surrounding mental illness.

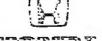
The commission has set aside £20 million a year over five years to give as Millennium Awards to individuals. In October it announced ER.6 million in grants to 3,000 people, distributed through six charities. A new round of

Jest ice iso

ANOTHER



for electric tilt and slide sunroof.



Suicide man is feared to have burnt wife's body

By Damian Whitworth

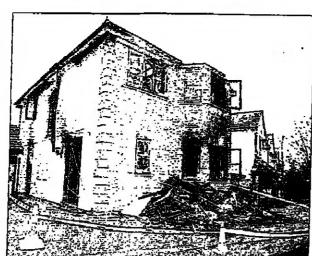
A BUSINESSMAN who committed suicide after burning down his house may have incinerated his wife's hody.

Police searching the farm near Tiverton, Devon, which Derek Levon, 61, had bought with his terminally-ill wife Pauline found an area of scorched earth 200 yards from the barn where the computer firm director shot himself on Friday in front of officers who had tried to persuade him to hand over the shotgun. The couple's other house, ten miles away in the village of Silverton, was destroyed by fire nine hours before Mr Levon

The police were yesterday awaiting the results of an analysis of the contents of a fin found in the boot of Mr Levon's car which they fear are his wife's ashes. Mrs Levon has not been seen for more than a week.

Forensic tests are to be carried out on the burnt piece of grazing land to see if Mrs Levon, who had concer, was cremated there.

The couple's two daughters Alison and Elaine, who are



The Levons' house in Silverton, Devon, which was destroyed by fire before Mr Levon killed himself

by Mr Levon although it did both married and live in Cyprus, have now been refer to an intention for them traced. One of them is returnboth to take their own lives. It ing to Devon to try to help is a one-page note and the only solve the mystery. Police said hint it gives as to motive are the words 'various reasons'. that Mr Levon had posted them a note which stated that There is no mention of his he and his wife intended to wife's cancer. commit suicide

"We are hoping to take full However, Detective Superstatements from the officers intendent John Smith, who is who spake to Mr Levon before leading the inquiry, said: "The he killed himself. He indicated his wife may be in the car. We

are searching the farm at the moment to find out if a body was cremated there and we have found a burned area in a field out there which we are looking at forensically."

When she was last seen, on December 21, Mrs Levon, who was known as Polly, told friends and shopkeepers that she and her husband were hoping to book a flight so that they could spend Christmas with their family in Cyprus. We don't think they were

able to get to Cyprus and the last sighting we have of Mr Levon was at 8.30pm on Boxing Day by a neighbour who visited him, who did not see Mrs Levon."

Mr Smith added that he was baffled by Mr Levon's decision to burn the house down. "Our priority now is to establish the identity of the human remains found in the car. We are still hoping to locate Mrs Levon but I have my doubts.

We have no indication that this tragedy was expected by well-planned and methodical. He was determined he was going to commit suicide and told. us where he could be found."



Derek Levon, who shot himself dead, with his wife Pauline, who was terminally ill with cancer

Chimps safe in a refuge away from poachers, labs and loggers

By DANIEL MCGRORY

THE footfall on the grass was enough to send the chimpanzee screeching for the nearest cover. The visitor to the chimp sanctuary intended no harm, but the frightened creature ching trembling to a tree trunk remembering that its last encounter with a stranger was a poacher who shot and

skinned its mother. The infant chimpanzee is safe now at the Jane Goodall Institute, corralled along with 53 other orphans at the Tchimpounga Sanctuary, Force, in the Congo, out of range of the rifles but still terrified of human contact. At the institute, named after a British chimp expert, the chimpanzees are schooled into how to behave in the wild, while teams of antipoaching rangers patrol to deter the hunters who are

never far away. It is estimated that fewer than 200,000 chimps now survive in the wild and inter-national regulations supposed to protect them are so poorly policed as to be meaningless. They have little chance to replenish their number because they are slow breeders and usually do not bring more than two off-

spring to full maturity. The destruction of Africa's forests by the logging trade has resulted not only in the wanton and large-scale de-struction of the habitat, but the roads carved through these areas by the timber companies assist the poachers who hunt primates for bush meat and export. There is abundant evidence that logging firms connive in the bush meat trade, and many are owned or financed by European companies. Their vehicles are used to ferry poachers into the forests and then carry the meat because most of the workers rely on it as their only source of

A recent investigation found bush meat openly and widely on sale throughout Central Africa. In one district of Cameroon an estimated 800 gorillas are killed annually, while the ethnic conflicts in Burundi and Rwanda have

led to the creatures being hunted as food. This year, in an effort to foster what he called a spirit of enterprise, the President of the Congo issued a public statement encouraging children to take

school holidays. There is also a particular type of ammunition now produced, the chevrotine, which is a cartridge specifically developed for hunting animals such as the gorilla. It contains nine lead balls which afford chance of felling a creature in

Poachers who prey on the chimpanzees slaughter the mothers for meat and capture the young for pets or the burgeoning demand from laboratories. The international outcry against monkeys being used for laboratory experiments or vivisection has diminished in recent years and there is abundant evidence that the numbers of creatures captured for such

uses is again increasing. This week the Russians launched two macaque monkeys into space in a joint operation with the French to study the effects of weightlessness, evoking memories of the early days of space explora-tion which relied entirely on animai research.



Fewer than 200,000 chimps survive in wild



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THE CHRISTMAS APPEAL rusk

Killer targets surviving **Beatles**

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE man who killed John Lennon was quoted yesterday as threatening the lives of the three remaining Beatles, and has reportedly tattooed his warning on his arm. Mark David Chapman, who is serving 20 years to life for shooting Lennon in New York in 1980, told a fellow immate: "The Fab Four is keeping me down. I'm going to kill em all."

The Star supermarket tabloid said that Chapman, eligible for parole in four years, had a tattoo on his right biceps to re-mind him of his plans. It has the words "John Lennon" and "Lonely", two red hearts, a black gun and the initials FFYRN—"Fab Four You

R Next". The unidentified inmate, who reportedly spent 100 days with Chapman in the maximum-security wing of At-tica prison, told the magazine that the murderer is again haunted by the "voices" he claimed drove him to shoot Len-non in New York.

"I popped a cap on him to put him out of his misery and free me," Chapman was quoted as saying. "Now my life's over and they're imprisoning me again, the three remaining Beatles. When I get out, I'm going to free myself again."

He has decorated his cell with Beatles photographs and a picture of Lennon in the mortuary. He is apparently enraged that Paul McCartney. George Harrison and Ringo Starr are making money by using old Lennon vocal tracks to make new recordings.

The immate said when Chapman talks of revenge "you'd think he was ordering a chocolate milkshake".



Chapman: tattoo on his arm

Clinton acts to prevent medical use for 'pot'

FROM IAN BRODGE IN WASHINGTON

President Clinton has approved a plan to threaten doctors with the loss of their licences, and even prosecu-tion, if they prescribe marijua-na for seriously ill patients in Arizona and California.

Letters will be sent to every doctor in the two states warning that marijuana remains an illegal narcotic under federal laws and threatening to revoke their powers to dispense drugs if they recommend or prescribe it.
In addition, the Drug En-

forcement Administration (DEA) will, if necessary, use surveillance and informers to track down "Dr Feelgood" physicians who make a prac-tice of recommending the drug to many patients. In those cases, prosecution would be a strong option, officials Ballot propositions approv-

ing the medical use of marijuana were passed by comfortable margins in both states in last month's election with the support of doctors, nurses, consumer groups and liberal politicians. Many chronically ill patients testified to the media that their suffering had been eased by smok-

ing "pot". California's measure allowing marijuana under the direction of a doctor for the treatment of Aids, cancer, arthritis, chronic pain and other illnesses was passed by 56 per cent to 44 per cent.

Voters in Arizona, normally considered conservative, sup-ported their state's initiative, allowing doctors to prescribe marijuana as an anti-nausea agent or painkiller for the seriously ill by 65 per cent to 35 per cent. That state also inchuded other drugs such as heroin and LSD for pain

Ballot initiatives are powerful weapons in the hands of voters and have the force of law unless overturned by the courts. In the late 1970s, California's historic Proposition 13

DEFYING the voters' will, forced the state to reduce property taxes and launched a tax-cutting movement across America.

Mr Clinton, who famously

tried marijuana once but "did not inhale", is reacting partly out of fear that prescriptions for marijuana will appear to give legal sanction to the drug. The President's drug chief, Barry McCaffrey, a former army general, said the crackdown was intended to maintain effective drug enforce-ment under federal laws, to

ensure that approved drugs are safe and effective, to maintain drug-free workplaces and to protect children from increased marijuana availability. That last hope is already belated; use of marituana is once more soaring among America's teenagers. Mr McCaffrey, who insists

that marijuana has no accepted medical use, leads a broadbased government task force dedicated to fighting the California and Arizona In Washington, the Justice

and Health Departments will try to persuade Congress to limit the ability of states to pass propositions dealing with With the threat to take away

doctors' licences, the California Medical Association is advising its 35,000 members not to recommend or prescribe marijuana for anyone, at least for the time being. The disagreement between

voters' wishes and the Gov-

ernment's dictates may require the US Supreme Court to issue a definitive ruling. Bill Zimmerman, who managed the successful proposi-tion campaign, said his supporters are planning a federal lawsuit to stop the DEA punishing doctors who simply

recommend marijuana to patients. For a doctor not to be able to express his opinion that marijuana might help would violate the Constitution's guarantee of free speech, Mr Zimmerman said.



Women in Guatemala City await the return from exile of guerrilla leaders for the signing of yesterday's peace accord

Hardcore gunmen threaten Guatemalan peace accord

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE longest-running civil war in the Western hemisphere came to a formal halt yesterday when Guatemala's left-wing guerrilla leaders signed an accord for a "firm and lasting peace" with President Arzú.

The peace pact ends a 36year conflict, arguably the bloodiest in modern Latin America, in which more than 150,000 Guatemalans are estimated to have been killed. with some 50,000 "disappeared" and nearly a million people driven into exile.

The war, whose existence was never formally acknowledged by successive armybacked regimes, began in November 1960 when two leftwing army officers, Turcio Lima and Marco Antonio You Sosa, formed the Revolutionary Movement of the 13th of November, the nucleus of a guerrilla movement. That movement eventually came together in 1982 under a loose alliance called the Guatemaian National Revolutionary Unity, three of whose leaders

attended yesterday's ceremo ny in Guatemala City.

GUATEMALA

The blackest chapters of the civil war occurred between 1978 and 1982, when the regimes of Generals Romeo Lucas Garcia and Efrain Rios Montt adopted a "scorched earth" policy against large swaths of rural Guatemala inhabited by the indigenous Quiché, Kakchikel, Kekchi and Mam people, completely erasing from the map at least 450 villages. It was not until the agreement of Esquipulas 1986, by which the leaders of all Central American countries committed themselves to the peaceful resolution of internal political disputes, that

the intensity of the civil war in Guatemala began to wane. Yesterday's agreement has been greeted by Guatemalans with a mixture of jubilation and scepticism. Rigoberta

Menchu, the indigenous civil rights campaigner who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992. has said that there are rightwing groups still active which would aim to disrupt" any peace with the country's indignous majority. Reports have also reached

the capital of groups of guer-rilla rearmados — hardcore dissidents who are still determined to bring about a revolution — regrouping in the region of Quetzaltenango. The main points of the accord, concluded in Mexico

City. Oslo, Stockholm and Madrid, stipulate: the demobilisation of the guerrillas and their return to civilian life; a reduction of the Guatemalan Army from 45,000 to 30,000 men and the dismantling of government-backed paramilitary groups; a reform of the judicial system; increased spending on rural infra-struc-ture; and the creation of a fund to finance the purchase of land for small farmers and cooperatives.

The Guatemalan parliament recently passed a law of national reconciliation, which would enable the rebel alliance to register itself as a lawful political party. Controversially, however, the law also provides an amnesty in the name of "reconciliation" to all those who violated human rights during the war, whether government soldiers or insurgents. "Crimes against humanity", not defined in the text of the law, will remain subject to punishment.

About 95 per cent of the rural population is landless, while 2 per cent owns 65 per cent of the productive land. Since grinding rural poverty drove many Guatemalans into the arms of the guerrillas, a failure to address seriously the causes of their impoverishment could lead to a recrudescence of conflict.

Señor Arzú, the architect of the peace process, has estimated that Guatemala needs at least \$2.3 billion (£1.43 billion) to put the accord into effect.

Gingrich re-election support dwindles

BY IAN BRODIE

SUPPORT for the re-election of Newt Gingrich as Speaker was faltering yesterday after a advised him against mixing funds for charitable activities with his political projects.

Mr Gingrich, who remained out of sight, was still confident of retaining the Speaker's chair when the US House of Representatives votes on Tuesday of next week. But his backing among Republicans was no longer as solid as party leaders claimed a week ago. Eight members were said to have shifted from a firm commitment to Mr Gingrich to being undecided and were pressing for him to give a full account of his ethical lapses at a public hearing of the ethics

Republicans control the House by 227 seats to 208, and Democrats could only deny Mr Gingrich re-election if 20 Republicans simply voted "present", meaning they refused to say yes or no.

Before Christmas a sub-

committee said that Mr Gingrich had brought discredit on the House by failing to seek legal advice before using taxexempt funds for his televised college course — a partisan project - and by providing the committee with "inaccurate, incomplete and unreliable in-Mr Gingrich said he was

formation" about the funding. wrong not to have sought legal advice over whether using the funds complied with tax laws. But the Atlanta Constitution unearthed documents showing that two lawyers did caution him against using tax-exempt funds for the project. Democrats trying to

capitalise on the Republicans' embarrassment were demanding that Mr Gingrich should be called to give a public account of why he apparently ignored the lawyers' advice and why he said he had not sought it. The ethics committee -

Republicans and five Democrats - could propose a reprimand for Mr Gingrich by the House, in which case he could still run for re-election as Speaker. A sterner censure would bar him from running.

Leading article, page 19

New York curbs its murder rate

New York: Police here are patrolling trouble-spots in a year's end effort to keep the city's annual murder rate under 1,000 for the first time since 1968 (James Bone writes). Extra officers have been assigned to nightclubs and social workers have inprone to domestic violence.

972 yesterday with the discovery of two bodies stuffed in plastic bags in the South Bronx, but the count was less than half the record of 2,245 murders set in 1990. In 1995, the total was 1180. The dramatic drop in New York's

city's first Republican Mayor in a generation. The fall has been particular-

ly pronounced for random killings, like those committed during muggings or traffic murder victims was killed by a stranger, compared with twice that number in 1993.

Peru rebels give up demand for release of jailed comrades

LEFT-WING Peruvian rebels freed another 20 hostages from the Japanese Amhassador's residence in Lima at the weekend as they raised hopes that they are softening their demands. Eighty-three people

remain captive. In a statement after releasing the hostages, the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Move-ment rebels dropped their central demand for the release of more than 450 of their imprisoned comrades. Their communiqué, read out by one of the released hostages, only said that they wanted to talk about "improved prison conditions" for their fellows.

The hostages' release, at 5.20pm on Saturday, came two hours after the Government's negotiator went into the besieged building for the first time to speak to the leader of the guerrillas. Do-mingo Palermo, the Education Minister, managed a lengthy conversation with Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, alias "Comandante Evaristo", and convinced him to release more hostages without giving in to any demands.

"We have succeeded in lib-

erating 20 hostages and those who are still inside are in good health," said Senor Palermo as he emerged. "This has shown that we are advancing towards a solution." The first hostages to be freed on Saturday were the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic, the Malaysian Ambassador, and the Peruvian director of an exporters' association. They walked free

clutching plastic bags filled

with some belongings and

keen to run into the arms o their families who waited outside.

The rebels' statement also insisted that they should not be compared with Peru's other, but traditionally more ruthless insurgent movement, the Shining Path, or Sendero "We insist we are not blood-

thirsty like the Shining Path and have never killed innocent civilians at whim. We have targeted our activity against the authorities and are also prepared to come to a peaceful agreement," the communiqué said. A second batch of 17 freed

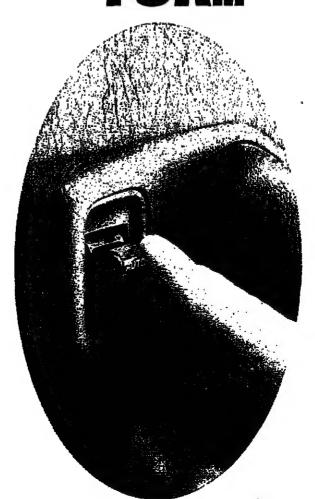
hostages included seven Peruvian Foreign Ministry officials and ten Japanese executives from such companies as Mitsubishi, Toyota and Mitsui, who are among the biggest foreign investors in Peru.

They came out saying that they had not been mistreated and that they were well. But the Japanese hostages still inside the Ambassador's home sent a letter to the Peruvian Government, say ing that they would not be able to keep up morale for much longer, and calling for more intensive efforts to secure their release.

"We are not sure how long we will be able to keep this up. Morale is flagging," said the letter signed by the 20 Japanese citizens, mostly company executives.

One mediator, Michael Minnig of the Red Cross, said yesterday that the latest releases were a "clear sign that negotiations are paying off".

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Dutch take lessons of Srebrenica nightmare into term as EU leader

he Irish retire: the Dutch take the stage. The European Union's rotating presidency changes hands this week and you will read and hear a great deal of guff about how Dutch ministers are going to get tough with Britain over changes to the Maastricht treaty.

Brave but futile attempts will be made to paint Hans van Mierlo, the Foreign Minister, and Michel Patijn, the European Affairs Minister. as a menacing federalist enforcement squad planning to hold John Major's (or Tony Blair's) feet to the fire this summer. This is one new year prediction you can safely



and Patijn are not pushovers and must talk about urgent deadlines to concentrate minds, but the Dutch are in no mood to take risks. Wherstand at any given moment, is likewise rooted in recent that spot will be safe centre and painful experience.

If EU leaders agree a Treaty of Amsterdam next June, it will not be thanks to any bullying by the Dutch. They took big political risks in Europe several times this decade and had their fingers

Interests are often defined by past trauma. Germany's twin 20th-century nightmares were hyper-inflation and Hitler: German politicians today pay a high price to preserve a hard mark and search for collective solutions to any and every international problem. Dutch realism in the EU

Minister; and Shamil

Basayev, the country's most

hopes that the race will be won

by Mr Maskhadov, a former

colonel in the Soviet Army.

who is regarded as the most

reliable and moderate figure

in the Chechen leadership. If

he does win, there is a hope

that during the coming fiveyear transition, when

Chechnya's final status is due

to be negotiated, a long-term

settlement suitable to both

sides can be found. Russia has

repeatedly stated that it wants

the troublesome republic to

remain within the Russian

Federation, while Chechnya

Under the leadership of a moderate such as Mr Maskh-

adov, it may be possible to

Russia would continue to pro-

vide economic and social as-

sistance to Chechnya, which

would enjoy sovereignty in all but name. However, there are

fears of renewed conflict if Mr

Basayev wins. The young

guerrilla leader, who masterminded the recapture of Groz-

ny last summer, is regarded in

Russia as little more than a

terrorist who has resorted to

hijacking aircraft and seizing

demands full independence.

popular field commander. In Moscow, the Russians have made little secret of their

Their economy is the least of their worries — top of the EU class, with the guilder so strong and stable that Dutch bankers talk condescendingly about the performance of the mark. Job creation is

high, social spending shrink-

ing and economic growth

ut in the political balance of power, things have not gone so well. When the Maastricht treaty was being put together five years ago, the Dutch Government of the day, intoxicated by the thought of a quantum leap towards a federal Europe and badly distracted by the disintegration of Yugoslavia, offered an ambitious version of the treaty. The document was humiliatingly binned at a meeting still known in The Hague as Black Monday. The Dutch had broken the first rule of EU conduct for small states: before sticking your neck out, first check that France and Germany will not chop your head off. Neither Paris nor

Bonn supported them at the Other EU setbacks followed. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancelior, refused to even consider allowing the

impeccably qualified former Prime Minister, Rund Lubbers, to become President of the European Commission. Dutch dairy farmers, owners of some of the most lavishly subsidised cows in the world, reached the end of their free ride: The Netherlands became a contributor to the EU

Perhaps the most disillusioning episode of all was the massacre by Bosnian Serbs last year of thousands of men in the captured town of Srebrenica, virtually before the eyes of helpless Dutch soldiers. Moral passion has long been a powerful element in Dutch foreign policy: the

went into anti-nuclear into human rights. The United Nations plan to designate "safe areas" in Bosnia-Herzegovina found favour with Dutch politicians who were among the first to respond to the appeal for troops.

The grim story of what happened to the lightly armed and poorly sup-Dutch soldiers who effortlessly. pushed aside by a large and ruthless Serb force is patiently and unsparingly retold in a re-cently published book*. The Dutch Government's biggest

clude, was naivety. The UN "safe area" policy was a fig-leaf to disguise the lack of will to take firmer action. Hoping that they were joining a pioneering co-operative venture, the Dutch found themselves trapped in a medieval

military aightmare. These experiences have not led the Dutch to Euro-scepticism. But the shine has come off the dream and they have learnt a hard lesson: tread carefully.

GEORGE BROCK Srebrenica: Record of a War Crime, by Jan Willem Honig and Norbert Both (Penguin).

Troop withdrawal seals Moscow's Chechnya debacle

TWO years after Moscow embarked on its bloodiest and most disastrous military campaign in half a century, the last Russian combat troops withdrew from Chechnya yesterday, in effect ceding control of the republic to the rebel Government.

In a move marked with little ceremony, soldiers of the 205th Motorised Rifle Brigade left their base at Khankala, near the capital, Grozny, returning Chec'unva to the same position it was two years ago when President Yeltsin ordered his ill-fated assault on the tiny republic.

The whole responsibility for the situation in the republic now rests with the [Chechen] coalition Government." said Ivan Rybkin, secretary of Russia's Security Council, in a radio interview

Although he predicted that the withdrawal of troops would build confidence between the two former enemies. the end of the conflict, negotiated by his predecessor General Aleksandr Lebed, has evoked mixed feelings in Rus-



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larly those with sons of military age, are relieved that no more conscripts will be sent to their deaths. Total casualties are estimated at between 40,000 and 90,000. In the Afghanistan war, by comparison. Soviet casualties were about 15,000.

However, there is also a sense of national humiliation that the Russian military, once regarded as the most formidable force in the world, was forced to retreat from a part of Russian territory by a small group of lightly armed guerrillas. After the recent murder of six Red Cross workers near Grozny, there is also grave apprehension that the Russian pullout will open the way for a fresh spate of killing, hijack-ing and hostage-taking, initi-ated by hardliners on both sides opposed to peace.

Much of what happens next in Chechnya will depend on the outcome of presidential elections scheduled for January 27. A crowded field of candidates includes Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the President; Aslan Maskhadov, the Prime Minister; Movladi

Basayev is very popular among the Chechen people. He is a real political force to be reckoned with," said Boris Berezovsky, the deputy head of the Russian Security Council. "However, if he is elected President on January 27, this will complicate life for the Chechen people. In the eyes of world opinion. Basayev is a terrorist. Not only Russia, but no other country will recog-nise him as President."

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A ship lies stranded on the beach at Ponta Delgada, the capital of the Azores, after violent storms lashed the islands over the past few days, causing more than \$20 million (£12 million) damage to barbours, houses and roads. The Portuguese Cabinet

Aid for storm-damaged Azores

approved an emergency aid package on Friday. Carlos Cesare, the regional government's president, said havoc wrought by 95mph gales on

Christmas Day took the bill for storm damage in the past month to more than \$60 million. Damage to

boats that broke free of their moorings, was put at some \$10 million. No one was hurt, but 20 families had to flee when their homes were flooded. (Reuter)

Weather forecast, page 18

WORLD SUMMARY

20 feared lost as ship capsizes

Athens: Twenty people, including two women and a girl aged ten, were thought to have died when a merchant ship capsized off the Greek town of Kymi on Saturday (John Carr writes). The captain is believed to have ignored storm

warnings. Greek Navy divers yesterday found six bodies in the Dystos, which was floating upside down. The ship was on a 200-mile voyage from Volos to Piraeus when two large waves hit it broadside. One officer jumped into a liferaft just before the ship turned over. He was rescued.

British hostage 'at rebel base'

THE British mine-clearer abducted in March by Khmer Rouge guerrillas has been Rouge stronghold in northeast Thailand, a rebel defector said Uames Pringle writes). Chhoy Win, who defected to the Government last Saturday. said he saw a Western man he thought was Christopher Howes at the rebels' Anlong Veng base.

Singapore poll attack on US

Singapore Claims by Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister, that America is interfering in the island's politics have become an election issue. The US State Department had accused him of linking voter support to the upgrading of public housing. (AP)

Atlantic search called off

Cape Town: Rescuers called off a search for 28 seamen lost in the South Atlantic after their ship sank while carrying sugar from Brazil to Iraq. A Hercules C130 plane failed to spot any survivors from the Jahan, which went down 680 miles west of here. (Reuter)

French singer dies aged 90

Paris: Mireille, a singer decorated by the Government for fostering the careers of many stars, died from pneumonia yesterday. Mireille Hartuch. 90, was known for founding the Little Conservatory of Song, had been in hospital since December 17. (AP)

Milosevic stars in black farce •

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN BELGRADE

THERE is something grimly comical in the movements of British ITN cameraman who is trying to flee from the

imminent rain of baton blows. Yet the icy ground affords neither a grip, so their feet flail in frantic circular motions like cartoon characters in the gathering gloom of Saturday evening in the Serbian capital.

The moment of humour ends with the first blow of the truncheon, a loud thump that makes hurrying onlookers wince, and the blow is repeated seven times before the journalist breaks away and slides off into the darkness.

President Milosevic's attempts to silence the voices of profest raised against his over-turning of municipal elections could appeal to any black humorist. Even the main party of the coalition opposition, the Serbian Renewal Movement, sees the funny side. "If this were a movie I would laugh." said Gvozden Rosic, a leading member of the SPO and Serbian parliament. "But

ten million people here are suffering as a result of this struggle between the forces of democracy and progression, and those of autocracy and more of a tragedy."

The Opposition celebrated its 40th day of protest with continuing demonstrations throughout Serbian towns. The weekend began on a

sombre note with the funeral in Belgrade of Predrag Starcevic, 37, killed on Christmas Eve in clashes between democracy supporters and pro-government crowds bused the capital by the President.

News of his death was delayed for two days and was finally announced by the authorities as resulting from a congenital heart condition rather than from internal bleeding caused by beating. Such lies are commonplace

The demonstrators incorporate supporters from three main opposition parties as well as students, and their agenda is therefore blurred. By yesterday portraits of Bob Marley and Ayrton Senna, the

France abandons test site it says is 'safer than Paris'

FRANCE will tomorrow close its nuclear test centre in the South Pacific amid assurances that the site is safe and regrets that it has not been turned into

a holiday camp.
After almost 200 tests, the
French Atomic Agency Commission will close its nuclear base on Mururoa atoll, leaving behind soldiers and workmen to continue a two-year clearing-up operation.
President Chirac an-

nounced an end to French nuclear testing after his deci-sion to hold a final series of trials in 1995 provoked international controversy and outrage in the South Pacific. Amid the relief that accom-

panied his commitment to sign the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. M Chirac suggested turning Mururoa into a exotic tourist destination. However, he has had to bow to reality. At 750 miles and three hours' flying time from the already remote island of Tahiti, the atoll would swallow up Fri00 million (Ell.7 million) a year if it was to be made habitable.

Even if the money was available, it is by no means want to stay in a place that has staged 193 nuclear explosions. The French authorities say that Mururoa and the test site at the Fangataufa atoll, 25 miles away, are safe. There is three times less radioactivity there than in Paris," said a Defence Ministry spokesman. The Atomic Energy Commission says any traces of radiation caused by overground tests before 1974 have disappeared. Since then, trials have been held in deep wells drilled

However, doubts persist. The International Atomic Energy Agency, invited by France to confirm its findings of minimal radioactivity, will not report before the end of next year. Even if it backs Paris, the controversy will continue. Some geologists say the nuclear trials have cracked the sea bed. They say the atoli may be safe now, but in the long term it could become dangerous.

beneath the sea bed.

Given the money involved in keeping Mururoa open and the scientific arguments over its safety. France has decided late Brazilian Formula One champion, jostled with banners of coalition parties at the

when compared to the menace of the occupants of the fleets of police buses waiting in the side streets. Vuk Draskovic, the princi-pal opposition leader, though

Belgrade raily, and the atmo-

a charismatic figure whose long hair and beard suggest more a poet than politician, is prone to more rhetoric than pragmatism and has had a wildly fluctuating political

Arrayed against the demonstrators are the machinations of a police state. No stranger to the concept of divide and rule, police units from rural areas initial degree of fraternisation between demonstrators and

police from the capital. Though they have so far avoided large-scale confronta-tion, the new police forces have begun to attack small groups, individuals and foreign journalists as they leave the rallies, an intimidatory tactic that could herald much worse to come. Crucially, the Serbian Army has sought to distance itself from the Government's crackdown.

Theborb tries

THE SALE

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Israel to remain in Hebron 'for ever' Netanyahu says

Binyamin Netanyahu, yesterday pledged that Israel would stay in Hebron permanently as he faced strong resistance from some of his ministers to a troop redeployment in the West Bank town.

Mr Netanyahu must seek the approval of the Cabinet after an agreement is signed transferring 80 per cent of Hebron to Palestinian control. Five ministers have publicly said they will vote against theplan. Opposition to the pro-posed redeployment has also come from the central committee of Mr Netanyabu's right-

wing Likud party. Mr Netanyahu yesterday romised greater stability in Hebron after a troop pullback. Anyone who tells you that we are leaving Hebron is telling you a lie. We are there and we are there to stay for all time," he told visiting American students. There is continual talk about redeploying from He-bron. No, we are redeploying in Hebron."

THE faltering Arab-Israeli-peace process did more to dent

sales of Scotch whisky to the Middle East in 1996 than

Islamic fundamentalism, but

deluxe brands remained the

Duty on Scotch was doubled

to 80 per cent in Lebanon, the

region's biggest market, and

sales to Syria were hit by the activities of smugglers and

counterfeiters, but Binyamin

Netanyahu, Israel's hardline

Prime Minister, is viewed as

the main bogeyman by most

the wrong guy got elected in

Israel. The slowdown in the

peace process has damaged a

lot of consumption, not just

booze but other luxury items.

People lack confidence in the

"What really kicked us was

favourite tipple.

the whisky trade

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU near future and want to save

Jewish area and the Cave of the Patriarchs — revered as the burial place of Abraham and his wife Sarah — would remain under Israeli security control. Mr Netanyahu rejected Palestinian demands for shared security of the shrine, which is holy to both Muslims

"The Israeli Army will be in that-part without any limita-tion," he said. "We have arranged a variety of security arrangements that will, I believe, bring more security, more stability and I believe

Airport shut in labour dispute

Jerusalem: Israel's labour federation shut down ports and airports yesterday as part of a national strike after the arrest of Shlomi Shani, a labour official. He was held for violating court restraining orders in connection with strikes held last

rather than spend, and there

isn't much to celebrate," said a

leading liquor salesman. Fears that Islamic funda-

mentalism would damage

business failed to materialise.

Imports of Scotch are boom-

ing in Egypt, where the duty is

300 per cent, and up to 50,000

cases are smuggled yearly into "dry" but still thirsty Saudi

Arabia where there is a grow-

ing fundamentalist backlash.

People say, 'How do you make a living? The Arabs

turn over to Arafat civilian authority for the Jewish sec-tion of the city". Peace doubts sour It was the first time that Yitzhak Shamir, the former Prime Minister and a signatory, has come out so strongly

between Palestinians and Is-

Hebron. For the fifth consecu-

Last night Yassir Arafat, president of the Palestinian

Authority, was due to hold

talks with Yitzhak Mordechai,

the Israeli Defence Minister, in an attempt to resolve out-standing differences over the future of Hebron. Their talks

were expected to focus on security at the Cave of the

Patriarchs. Israel has rejected

Palestinian police and Israeli

soldiers at the holy site.

request for joint patrols of

As the negotiations contin-

ued, Likud central committee

members published a petition

calling on the Government

not to abandon Hebron, not

to allow armed Palestinian

police into Hebron and not to

rachs in that city."

against the Government.

Mr Netanyahu suffered another blow last week when Yuli Edelstein, the Minister for Immigrant Absorption, an-nounced he would be one of at least five ministers to vote against the agreement.

Mr Edelstein said he was concerned about the small size of the buffer zone between the Palestinian and Jewish sections of Hebron. He was particularly troubled by the proximity of one Jewish area to an Arab market, which would be reopened under Palestinian control.

Other ministers to an-

don't drink'," the salesman said "Yes," I say. "And Roman Catholics don't have nounce their opposition to the agreement are Ariel Sharon, sex before marriage." the Infrastructure Minister, Prohibition in Gulf states Benny Begin, the Science Minsuch as Saudi Arabia and ister, Zevulun Hammer, the Kuwait is not particularly Education Minister, and effective, but per capita Israel Yitzhak Levy, the Transport consumes the least of those Minister. Three other minis-Middle Eastern countries ters have not yet committed where alcohol is legal.

Apology for raid eases Korean tension

NORTH KOREA yesterday issued an unprecedented apolultimately more co-operation ogy to South Korea for an incursion by one of its subma-rines into the South last Sep-tember. The statement, car-ried by the official Korean Palestinians yesterday kept up a firebombing campaign against Jewish residents of tive day, firebombs were thrown at Jewish areas, but Central News Agency, for the first time expressed "deep regret" for the incident. there were no reports of

American diplomats have been meeting North Korean envoys in New York during the past month to urge the reclusive Pyongyang regime

to apologise.
Out of 26 North Koreans who landed from the submarine, which ran aground on a beach in eastern South Korea. 24 were shot dead, one was captured alive and one is still on the loose.

South Korea, which received the text of the apology in advance, welcomed it as a chance to clear up the incident, and said it suggested that North Korea was ready to respond positively to an offer of peace talks. There was no indication whether the Seoul Government would respond to a demand from Pyongyang to return the bodies of the dead infiltrators.

The statement from Pyong-yang said that North Korea would make efforts to ensure that such an incident will not recur and will work with others for durable peace and stability on the Korean peninsula".

The apology represents a major climbdown for Pyongyang, which had previously threatened to repay blood with blood and to retaliate "a hundredfold or a thousandfold" over the deaths of its

Observers noted, however, that the North, which is threatened with famine, only broadcast and disseminated the news for overseas consumption, not for its domestic market. Still, analysts noted that the submarine incident, which had done much to jeopardise a fragile truce on the Korean peninsula, had

apparently now been resolved.
The United States probably persuaded the North to apologise by promising more food aid, analysts said.



Anti-government protesters march against new labour laws in Seoul yesterday

Strike threatens to halt Seoul

FROM REUTER IN SECUL

MILITANT South Korean trade unionists yesterday threatened to paralyse Seou with mass rallies and halt traffic on all motorways unless the Government revoked a labour law which has sparked a wave of strikes.

"Overthrow the Kim Young Sam Government," chanted the protesters in red and blue headbands. Nearly 20,000 angry workers poured into a large square in Seoul's business district yesterday. The rally was called by the out-lawed Korean Confederation

The leader, Kwon Young Kil, threatened to clog the nation's main north-south roads by driving vehicles slowly in all lanes and blocking traffic. Many workers driving to the Seoul rally from southern provinces had protested in a similar fashion late

on Saturday. His comments raised the temperature in a general strike that has paralysed industry and which turned violent for the first time on Saturday, when riot police used teargas to drive back the

Strikes began on Thursday after the controversial law was pushed through parliament. Industrial chaos threatened to bring South Korea's economy to a halt at least until the end of the year.

Under the new law, which was pushed through a dawn sitting of parliament on Thursday when opposition lawmakers were still asleep. companies can lay off surplus workers, hire temporary staff and replace strikers.

Patten's deputy to stay on in new regime

FROM JAMES PRINGLE

HOPES of a stable handover in Hong Kong received a boost yesterday when the colony's Chief Executive-designate in-vited the Governor's second-

new administration. Analysts said bringing the popular Ms Anson Chan into the new government was likely to make Chris Patten, the Governor, more of a "lame duck". Yet it was welcomed in Hong Kong as giving at least a superficial boost to confidence in the final six months before the transfer of sovereignty on July 1, 1997.

"I asked Ms Chan to stay on after 1997 to work for the future Hong Kong government and I'm very happy that she accepted," said Tung Chee-hwa, who has been cho-sen as the Chief Executive.

Mrs Chan said: "I know I can work very, very happily with Mr Tung because we both share a common objective, and that is to maintain a smooth transition and confidence and prosperity in Hong Kong after 1997."

A photograph of the two shaking hands after a twohour meeting — the little known Mr Tung, 59, chosen by a Peking-backed selection committee, and the competent Ms Chan — was on the front of

newspapers here yesterday.
Some analysts said the change of regime in Hong Kong was beginning six months ahead of schedule. "So Hong Kong is to get its 'dream team,' the South China Morning Post said yesterday. "Just as Mr Tung has come to epitomise a set of prudent, businesslike values and a nonconfrontational style for the future. Mrs Chan stands for the continuity of good and effective administration."

But the Hong Kong Standard showed a morose Mr Patten standing by a broken-down old car while Ms Chan smilingly clambered into a hotrod sports which driven

by a grinning Mr Tung.
Some analysts said Ms Chan's appointment may sig-nal an early transfer of civil service loyalty to the Pekingbacked administration.

Tibet bomb triggers Chinese crackdown

By JAMES PRINGLE

A RENEWED Chinese crackdown seems likely in Tibet after a bomb explosion outside a government building injured three people, and a Tibetan former Fulbright music scholar received an 18-year prison sentence, analysts said yesterday.

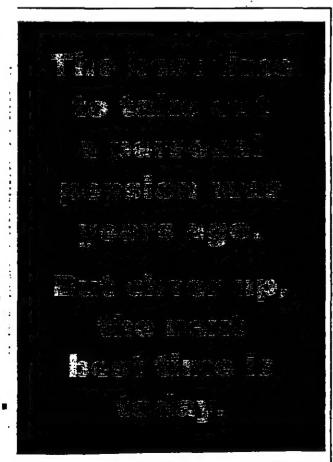
The authorities called last Wednesday's bomb blast "an appalling act of terrorism points on the road west from Lhasa,

and a serious counter-revolutionary incident". Usually they make no mention of such incidents, though there are believed to have been several explosions this year, possibly caused by pro-independence forces loyal to the exiled Dalai Lama, who

favours peaceful protest. Network said police have set up check-

visited hotels to question Tibetan guests, and begun house-to-house questioning of young Tibetan men.

Ngawang Choephol, 30, the music scholar who was sentenced on Friday, was held by security forces while in Tibet to make an amateur film about tradition-The London-based Tibet Information al music and dance. He was said to have confessed to spying for a "foreign country", thought to mean America.



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Debt weapon curbs Pakistan politicians

By Christopher Thomas, south asia correspondent

HUNDREDS of people hop-ing to stand in Pakistan's elections on February 3 could be disqualified unless they pay their gas, electricity, telephone and water bills. Politicians routinely ignore such bills, and many owe hundreds of

thousands of rupees.
It is the commonest form of corruption in a political system rife with fraud. Zamindars (landlords) are among the biggest offenders because of the amount of power and water they consume and their ability to browbeat bureaucrats. They are also the biggest tax dodgers.
The caretaker Government

installed after Benazir Bhutto's administration was dismissed last month for corruption and incompetence is attempting to ensure only "clean" candidates take part, but weeding out corrupt contenders cannot be completed in time, so the Government is aiming at the easiest targets.

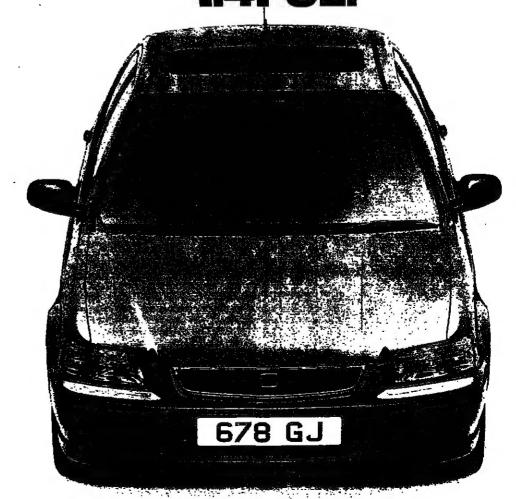
appealed to the courts against her dismissal by President Leghari, who turned against her after warning her privately that high-level corruption was out of control. Asif Ali Zardari, her husband and a former Cabinet minister known as "Mr Ten Per Cent" has been charged with invol-vement in the September murder of her brother Muriaza.

Imran Khan, the former Pakistan cricket captain, issaid to have received substantial campaign funds from Sir James Goldsmith, the British financier, who is his father-in-law. His organisation, the Movement for Justice, has promised to create a "true" Islamic

state. Islamabad: The fundamentalist Islamist Jamaat-i-Islami party plans to boycon the elections. State radio quoted Qazi Hussain Ahmad, the Jamaat leader, as saying the decision was because the caretaker Government had Miss Bhutto, who has little failed to stem corchance of a poll comeback, has ruption. (Reuter)

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A chance encounter with a 19th-century treatise on sick headaches led Oliver Sacks to draw some surprising conclusions

The secret pattern that lies behind the twists and turns of scientific history

ward or forward. Or the evolution, the effects and influences of what we once thought. Either way, we may imagine that history will be revealed as a progression, opening like the tree of

What one often finds, however, is far from being a continuum. This is a conclusion that I will try to illustrate by some stories of how odd, complex, contradictory and discovery can be. And yet, beyond the twists and anachrorisms in the history of

'Optic science, perhaps there is an overall pattern to be nerve i began to realise how elusive scientific history activity can be when I became involved with my first may cause love, chemistry. I vividly remember, as a boy, a zigzag

and learning that oxygen had been all but discovered in the 1670s by John Mayow, along with a theory of combustion and

a former

master at my school-

obscurantism (and the preposterous phiogiston theory), and oxygen was only rediscovered 100 years later, by Lavoisier.

Mayow died aged 34: "Had he lived but a little longer." Armitage adds, "it can scarcely be doubted that he would have forestalled the revolutionary work of Lavoisier. and stifled the theory of phlogiston at its birth."

Was this a romantic exaltation of Mayow, or could the history of chemistry have been wholly different, as Armitage suggests?

I thought of this history in the mid-Sixties, when I was a young neurologist just starting work in a headache clinic. My job was to make a diagnosis — migraine, tension headache, whatever — and prescribe treatment. But I could never confine myself to this, nor could many of the patients I saw.

They would often tell me, or I would observe, other phenomena: sometimes distressing, sometimes intriguing, but not strictly part of the medical picture - not needed, at least, to make a diagnosis.

Often in a classical migraine there is an aura, so-called, where the patient may see scintillating zigzags slowly traversing the field and understood. But sometimes,

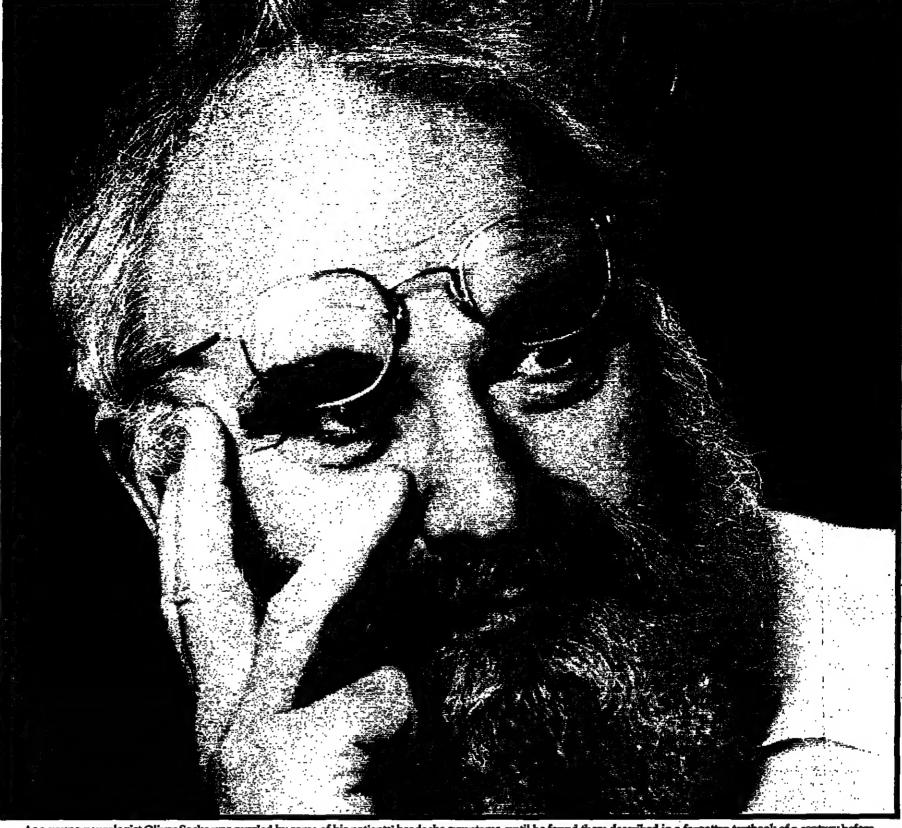
more rarely, patients would tell me of more complex geometrical patterns that appeared in place of, or in addition to, the zigzags lattices, whorls, funnels and webs, all shifting, gyrating, and modulat

When I searched the literature, I could find no mention of these. Puzzled, I decided to study 19th-century accounts, which tend to be much fuller, more vivid and richer

than modern ones. My first discovery was an extraordinary book on migraine written by Edward Liveing, a Victorian wonderful title: On Megrim. Sick-Headache, and Some Allied Disorders: A Contribution to the Pathology of Nerve Storms, and it was a grand, meandering sort of book, clearly written in an age far

more leisurely than ours. It touched briefly on the complex geometrical patterns I had been told of, and it referred me to a paper written a few years before. On Sensorial Vision by John Frederick Herschel, son of William Herschel (both father and son, as well as being eminent astronomers, had "visual" migraines and wrote about

I felt I had struck pay dirt at last. The younger Herschel gave meticu-



As a young neurologist Oliver Sacks was puzzled by some of his patients' headache symptoms, until he found them described in a forgotten textbook of a century before

lous, elaborate descriptions of exactly the phenomena my patients

He had experienced them personally, and he ventured some deep nature and origin. He thought they might represent "a sort of kaleidoscopic power" in the sensorium - a primitive, pre-personal generating power in the mind, the earliest stages, even precursors, of perception.

I could find no adequate description of these "geometrical spectra", as Herschel called them, in the entire 100-year period between his observations and my own. Yet it was clear to me that at least one person in twenty affected with migraine experienced them on

How had these phenomena startling, highly characteristic, unmistakable hallucinatory patterns

- evaded notice for so long? In the first place, someone must make an observation and report.

In the same year that Herschel reported this phenomena, G.B.A. case of muscular dystrophy. But here the stories diverge. As soon as Duchenne's observations were published, physicians started seeing the dystrophy everywhere.

Within a few years, scores of further cases were reported and described. The disorder had always existed, ubiquitous and unmistakable. Why did Duchenne need to open our eyes? His observations entered the mainstream of clinical perception at once, as a disorder of great importance.

Herschel's paper, by contrast, sank without a trace. He was not a physician making medical observations but an independent observer of great curiosity. He considered

himself an astronomer even in emerged in conjunction with the migraine. Such chaotic behaviours regard to his own hallucinations, and indeed called himself astronomer of the inward".

He suspected that his observathat such phenomena could lead to deep insights about the brain, but whether they had medical importance too was not in his mind.

ince migraine was usually defined as a medical condition. Herschel's observations had no professional status. After a brief mention in Liveing's book they were forgotten, ignored by the profession. If they were to point to new

scientific ideas about the mind and brain, there was no way of making the connection in the 1850s. The necessary concepts only emerged These necessary concepts recent development of chaos have now been recognised in a vast

ment in a system, when there are a large number of elements in interaction (as, for example, with the million-odd nerve cells in the primary visual cortex), patterns can be discerned at a higher level by using recently developed methods of mathematical and computer anaivses.

There are "universal behaviours" which emerge in such interactions, behaviours which represent the ways such dynamic, non-linear systems organise themselves. They tend to take the form of complex, repetitive patterns - indeed the very sort of networks, whorls, spirals and webs that one sees in the geometrical hallucinations of

range of natural systems, from the This shows that while it is eccentric motions of Pluto to the impossible to predict in detail the striking patterns that appear in the tions, to the multiplication of slime fungi and the vagaries of the

With this, a hitherto insignificant or unregarded phenomenon like the geometrical patterns of mi-graine aura suddenly assumes a new importance.

It shows us, in the form of a hallucinatory display, not only an elemental activity of the cerebral cortex, but an entire self-organising system, a universal behaviour, at

Exercised from Scotoma: Forgetting and Neglect in Science by Oliver Sacks, from Hidden Histories of Science, edited by Robert B. Silvers. Published January 13 by Granta Books, price £7.99

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A genius and his fridge \(\square\$ Speed of thought \(\square\$ Benefits of a snooze

Einstein's

WHAT is the link between Albert Einstein and the domestic refrigerator? It is a lot closer than you might think. The greatest intellect of the 20th century spent a good part of the 1920s, when he was at the height of his powers, in improving the design of the fridge. The details of this forgotten episode have been unearthed by Gene Dannan, an independent scholar, who reports his results in the January issue of Scientific

Einstein's collaborator was the Hungarian physicist Leo Szilard. The enterprise began when Einstein, then in Berlin, read an item in a newspaper reporting the death of an entire family overcome by poisonous gases from a leaking fridge. At the time, methyl chloride, ammonia and sulphur dioxide were used as cooling gases in home refrigerators. All of them are toxic. There must be a better way," a distressed Einstein said to Szilard, and so they started

Brains work

in slow motion

discovered. They studied

how long a decision to move

a finger, taken in one part of

the brain, takes to reach

another part of the brain

where the movement is actu-

ally controlled.
The answer was about

nine tenths of a second, and

EVEN a flash

of inspiration

moves through

the brain at

tortoise speed.

Danish rese-

archers have



They developed three different types of fridge, and were successful in selling the ideas to several companies, including AEG and Electrolax. Filing the patents was no problem, as

BRIEFING Nigel Hawkes worked in a patent office. In

1927 they sold one of the

patents to Electrolux for

\$750. which sounds modest.

and which the firm regarded

means a speed for the im-

pulses of less than 0.2 mph.

of Aarhus Kommunehos-

pital, one of those responsi-

ble, noted that the study

involved "self-initiated

movements", rather than re-

flexes caused by a reaction to

outside stimuli. "At first we

see one area of the brain

become active, then we see

another," he said. "There

may be an overlap of 50

milliseconds." The team

used two imaging tech-

niques to identify the differ-

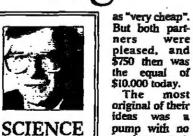
ent areas of the brain in six

volunteers, and to time how

long it took the signals to

move between them.

Professor Albert Gjedde.



original of their pump with no moving parts. A travelling electromagnetic field caused a liquid metal (a mixture of sodium and potassi-

press a refrigerant. It worked well, though to the

It wailed and howled like a hanshee, one witness remembers, the result of cavitation as tiny bubbles were formed and then collapsed in the liquid metal. Design changes reduced the noise to acceptable levels. The pump never found its

way into anybody's kitchen,

alas; a fridge designed by Einstein would now be an antique to die for. But it was later used in pumping the coolant around fast-breeder reactors, and the collaboration with Szilard also bore fruit of a very different kind. In July 1939 he encouraged Einstein to write the fateful letter to Franklin Roosevelt that gave warning of the possibility of the atom bomb, and of the fear that Nazi Germany might already be building one. That letter inspired the Allied bomb project, and changed history. Who knows if Einstein would have written it if he had been unaware of Szilard's metal, tested in the demanding sphere of do-mestic white goods?

about 2.4 inches apart. That Sleeping off an infection



feel off-colour. we go to sleep, and the instinct seems to be a sound one. Dr Janer

Mullington, of the University of Pennsylvania Medical Centre, has studied the effects of sleep on minor infections by injecting volunteers with varying doses of endotoxins, poisons that appear on the cell surfaces of infectious bacteria such as

She found that the lowest doses increased the amount of deep sleep, the kind that is thought to be best for repairing the ravages of the day. and also stimulated production of the immune system chemicals that attack infective agents. Higher doses produced a fever, and disrupted sleep.

The results suggest that trying to enhance sleep during the early stages of infection might be helpful. Now she is investigating the effect of sleep deprivation on endo-toxin challenge, to find out whether, as common sense suggests, a lack of sleep makes us more vulnerable to

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The anniversaries of 1997

Next year marks the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's golden wedding, the 100th birthday of the Tate Gallery, the 700th anniversary of William Wallace's defeat of the English at Stirling Bridge and 50 years of independence for India and Pakistan. Jack Lonsdale highlights the arrivals, departures and significant events of the year

I The British coal industry was nationalised, 1947. 2 Nathaniel Bacon (1647-1676), coloniser in Virginia, born Suffolk. 9 Karl Mampleim (1893-1947), German sociologist, died London. 10 Armette Dross-Hulshoff (1797-1848). German poet, born Münster,

Albert Moschinger (1897-1985). Swiss composer, born Basel 14 Wilson Carfile (1847-1942), founder 14 Wilson Carille (1847-1942), founder of the Church Army, born London.
21 Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey (1517-47), poel executed, London.
22 Sir Isaac Himan (1813-97), inventor of phonography, died Bath.
23 Pierre Bonrard (1867-1947), French painter, died le Cannet.

James Louis Garvin (1868-1947), Editor of The Observer 1908-42, died Beaconsfield.

24 Margaret Hungerford (18557-97). novelist, died Bandon, Co Cork. 25 Al Capone (1899-1947). American gangster, died Palm Island, Florida. 26 Samuel Pfrr [1747-1825], schoolmaster and writer, born Harrow. Grace Moore (1898-1947), Ameri-

can singer and film actress, killed in an air crash, Copenhagen. 28 Henry VII (1491-1547), King of England 150947, died London. Reynaldo Hahn (1875-1947), French conductor and composer, died Paris.

30 Johann Quantz (1697-1773), German composer, born Oberscheden. 31 Franz Schubert (1797-1828), Austrian composer, born Vienna.

4 Ludwig Erlard (1897-1977), Chancellor of Federal Republic of Germany 1963-66, born Furth. 6 Ellen Wilkinson (1891-1947), trade unionist and politician, died London. 7 Ernst Frank (1847-1889), German composer, born Munich. 9 Sir Charles Kingsford Smith (1897-1935). Australian aviator, born Hamilton, Oueensland.

11 Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931). American inventor, born Milan, 12 French treops invading at Pembrokeshire were captured, 1797.

13 Sharon Turner (1768-1847), historian died London. 14 Jervis and Nelson defeated the Spanish flee off Cape St Vincent,

Jorgen Bentzon (1897-1948), Danish composer, born Copenhagen.



Alexander Graham Bell, b. 1847

15 Philip Melanchthon (1497-1560), German theologian, born Bretton. 19 Blondin Bean-François Gravelet 1824-1897), lightrope walker, died London.

24 Samuel Lover (1797-1868), songwriter, novelist and painter, born 25 Vittoria Colonna (1492-1547), Italian poet, died Rome.

26 Benjamin Webster (1864-1947), actor, died Hollywood. 27 Dame Ellen Terry (1847-1928). born Coventry.

MARCH 1 Sir Thomas Brock (1847-1922). sculptor, born Worcester. 2 Horatio Walpole, 4th Earl of Orford (17)7-97), writer, died London. 3 Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922).

inventor of the telephone, born Edinburgh 6 Saint Colette (1381-1447), founder of the Colettine Poor Clares, died Ghent.

8 Thomas Martin (1697-1771), anti-quary, born Thetford, Suffolk. 9 Sir (Francis) Stanley Jackson (1870-1947), England cricketer and politician, died London II Henry Coweli (1897-1965), Ameri-

can composer, born Menlo Park, California. 13 Angela Brazil (1868-1947), writer of school stories, died Coventry. 16 Alaric Alexander Watts (1797-1864), poet, born London.

22 William I (1797-1888), first German emperor (1871), born Berlin.



23 William Child (1606-97), organist and composer, died Windsor. 25 Saint Catherine of Siena (1347-80), mystic, born Siena, Tuscany. 27 Alfred-Victor, Comte de Vigny [1797-1863], French poet and novelist, bern Loches. 31 Johann Abraham Schulz (1747-1800), German composer, born

APRIL 1 Abbe Prévost d'Exiles (1697-1763). French novelist, born Hesdin, 2 Flora Annie Steel (1847-1929), novelist, born Harrow.



Gangster Al Capone, died 1947

3 Johannes Brahms (1833-97), German composer, died Vienna. 5 Sir John Gilbert (1817-97), painter, died London.

7 William Mason (1724-97), poet, died Rotherham, Yorks. Jens Peter Jacobsen (1847-85), Dan-

ish novelist and poet, born Thisted, Jutland. Henry Ford (1863-1947), American industrialist, died Dearborn,

9 Simon Fraser, 12th Baron Lovat (1667?-1747). Jacobite, executed, 10 John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Roches-

Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911), American publisher, founder of the prizes bearing his name, born Mako,

Il Henry Beaufort (c.1374-1447), Cardinal Bishop of Winchester, died Winchester. 15 Naval mutiny at Spithead, 1797-

(see also May 23). 17 Thornton Wilder (1897-1975), American writer, born Madison, Wisconsin.

Harald Saeverud (1897-1922), Norwegian composer, born Bergen. 18 Adolphe Thiers (1797-1877), French statesman, first President of the Third Republic, born Marseilles. 20 Christian X (1870-1947), King of Denmark 1912-47, died Copenhagen. 23 George Anson, Baron Anson (1697-1762), admiral, born Shugborough, Staffs.

Erik Geijer (1783-1847). Swedish poet, died Stockholm. Lester Pearson (1897-1972), Canadi-

an Prime Minister 1963-68, Nobel Peace laureate 1957, born Toronto. 24 Willa Cather (1873-1947), American novelist, died New York. 30 Sir Almroth Wright (1861-1917). bacteriologist, died Farnham Common, Bucks.

5 Isabella Banks (1831-97), novelist, died Dalston, Cumbria. 7 Archibald Philip Primrose, 5th Earl of Rosebery (1847-1929), Prime Minister 1894-5, born London. Harry Gordon Selfridge (1858-1947), department store owner, died

London. 10 Jean Marie Leclair (1697-1764), French composer, born Lyons.

13 United Presbyterian Church in Scotland formed, 1847.

15 Daniel O'Connell (1775-1347), Irish

political leader ("the Liberator") died

Sir Edwin Ray Lankester (1847-1929), zoologist, born London. 17 George William Forbes (1869-1947), Prime Minister of New Zealand 1930-35, died Cheviot. NZ. 18 Frank Capra (1897-1991), American film director, born Palermo, Sicily. 20 Mary Lamb (1764-1847), co-author

21 Pieter Hooft (1581-1647). Dutch dramatist and poet, died The Hague. 22 Blackwall Tunnel under the Thames opened, 1897. 23 Naval mutiny at the Nore, 1797. 27 Francois-Noel Babeuf (1760-97),

of Tales from Shakespeare, died

French politician, guillotined Vendôme Sir John Cockcroft (1897-1967), physicist, Nobel laureate 1951, born Todmorden, Yorks. 28 Luc de Clapiers. Marquis de

Vauvenargues (1715-47). French essayist, died Paris. 29 Julius von Sachs (1832-97), German botanist, died Würzburg. Erich Korngold (1897-1957), Austrian composer, born Brno. 30 Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847). first Moderator of the Free Church of

5 Marshall Aid for European recovery inaugurated, 1947. 6 James Agate (1877-1947), dramatic novelist died Frankfurt am Main.

Scotland, died Edinburgh.

critic, died London. 9 Saint Columba (521-597), Irish missionary, died lona. 11 Sir John Franklin (1786-1847). explorer, died near King William Island in the Arctic.

Dame Millicent Fawcett (1847-1929), suffragette, founder of Newnham College, Cambridge, born Aldeburgh, Suffolk. 12 Anthony Eden, 1st Earl of Avon (1897-1977), Prime Minister 1955-57, born Windlestone, Durham.

Alexandre Tansman (1897-86), Polish composer, born Lodz. 13 Paavo Nurmi (1897-1973), Finnish ong-distance runner, born Turku. 20 Willem Barents (c. 1550-97), Dutch navigator, died in the Arctic. 24 John O'Keeffe (1747-1833), dramatist, born Dublin. 25 Margaret Oliphant (1828-97), nov-

list, died Windsor. 27 Richard Bedford Bennett, Viscount Bennett (1870-1947), Canadian Prime Minister 1930-35, died Mickleham, Surrey. 30 Sir Thomas Pope Blount (1649-97), writer, died Tyttenhanger, Herts.

6 John Paul Jones (1747-92), American War of Independence hero, born Kirkcudbright, Scotland.

Walter Runciman, lst Baron Runciman (1847-1937), shipowner, born Dunbar. 9 Edmund Burke (1729-97), statesman, died Beaconsfield. 11 Charles Macklin (1697?-1797), actor, died London. 16 Giuseppe Crespi (1665-1747), Italian painter, died Bologna. 17 Paul Delaroche (1797-1859), French

painter, born Paris. 18 Antonio Vieira (1608-97), Jesuit missionary, orator and writer, died Salvador, Brazil. 20 Jean Ingelow (1820-97), poet, died London.

Max Liebermann (1847-1935), German painter, born Berlin. 21 Sebastian del Piombo (c. 1485-1547). Italian painter, died Rome.

The Tate Gallery was opened, 1897. 24 Amelia Earhart (1897-1937), American aviator, the first woman to fly over the Atlantic, born Atchison, Kansas: 25 Kathleen Kennet, Lady Kennet

(1878-1947), sculptor (as Kathleen ter (1647-80), poet, born Ditchley, Scou), died London. 28 John Walter II (1778-1847), chief proprietor of The Times 1812-47, died

30 Sir Joseph Cook (1860-1947). Australian Prime Minister 1913-14, died Sydney.

AUGUST 4 Rodney ("Gipsy") Smith (1860-1947), evangelist, died at sea. 8 Jacob Burchhardt (1818-97), Swiss

art historian, died Basel. Anton Deniken (1872-1947), anti-Bolshevik general 1918-20, died Ann Arbor, Michigan. 11 Enid Blyton (1897-1968), writer of children's stories, born London. 15 Independence of India proclaimed.

partitioning the country into India and Pakistan, 1947. 21 Emore Bugatti (1881-1947), Italian car designer, died Paris.

22 Denis Papin (1647- c.1712), French physicist, born Blois. Sir John Forrest, Baron Forrest of Bunbury (1847-1918), Australian ex-

plorer and statesman, born near Bunbury, Western Australia. Sir Alexander Mackenzie (1847-

1935), composer, born Edinburgh. Roy Chadwick (1893-1947), aeronautical engineer, killed on a test 24 First Edinburgh Festival, 1947. 26 Liberia became the first independent state in Africa, 1847.

29 Joseph Wright (1734-97), painter. died Derby. 30 Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797-1851), writer, author of Frankenstein, born London.



Ellen Wilkinson, died 1947

SEPTEMBER Benjamin Nottingham Webster (1797-1882), actor and dramatist, born James Hannington (1847-1885).

bishop and missionary, born Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex. 10 Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin (1759-97), writer, died London. Il William Wallace defeated English forces at Stirling Bridge, 1297. 16 Sir Anthony Panizzi (1797-1879). librarian of the British Museum 1837-66, born Brescello, Modena. Grace Aguilar (1816-1847), poet and

socialist, born Cherbourg. man composer, died Leipzig.

Italian physicist, died Florence.

1948), Brazilian composer, born Rio de Janeiro. 8 Bram Stoker (1847-1912), novelist, author of Dracula, born Dublin.

Author Enid Blyton, born in 1897, with two of her characters: Noddy and PC Plod. More than 600 of her works were published

22 Alice Meynell (1847-1922), essayist and poet, born London. 25 William Faulkner (1897-1962), American novelist, born New Alba-26 Hugh Lofting (1886-1947), writer of

children's stories, died Santa Monica, California.

Giovanni Montini (1897-1978), Pope Paul VI 1963-78, born Concesio. 27 Herbert Hensley Henson (1863-1947), bishop of Durham 1920-39, died Hintlesham, Suffolk. 29 Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra (1547-1616), Spanish novelist, born Alcalá de Henares.

OCTOBER 1 Annie Besant (1847-1933), social reformer and theosophist, born

Gregorio Martinez Sierra (1881-1947), Spanish poet, died Madrid. 2 Paul von Hindenburg (1847-1934), President of the Weimar Republic 1925-34, born Poznan, Poland. 4 Jeremias Gotthelf (1797-1854), Swiss

novelist, born Morat. Max Planck (1858-1947), German physicist, Nobel laureate 1918, died Gottingen. 5 Henry Howard (1769-1847), painter,

died Oxford. Alexander Chisholm (1792?-1847), painter, died Rothesay, Isle of Bute. Adolf von Hildebrand (1847-1921), German artist, born Marburg. II Admiral Duncan defeated the

Dutch off Camperdown, 1797. 13 William Motherwell (1797-1835). poet, born Glasgow. Sidney Webb, Baron Passfield (1859-1947), social reformer and historian, died near Liphook, Hants.

16 James Thomas Brudenell, 7th Earl of Cardigan (1797-1868), led the charge of the Light Brigade in October 1854, born Hambleden,

18 Justus Lipsius (1547-1606). Flemish scholar, born Overijse. Canaletto (1697-1768), Italian painter, born Venice. 24 Francis Turner Palgrave (1824-97). poet and critic, died London. 25 Evangelista Torricelli (1608-47),

NOVEMBER 2 Georges Sorel (1847-1922), French 4 Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47). Ger-Oscar Lorenzo Fernandez (1897-

10 William Hogarth (1697-1764), painter and engraver, born London. 12 Emma Orczy, Baroness Orczy (1865-1947), novelist, died London.

14 Sir Charles Lyell (1797-1875). geologist, born Kirriemuir. Mrs Belloc Lowndes (1868-1947). novelist, died Eversley Cross, Hants. 15 Aneurin Bevan (1897-1960), politi-

cian, born Tredegar. Sir Sacheverell Sitwell Bt. (1897-1988), poet and critic, born Scarborough. 18 Pierre Bayle (1647-1706), French

philosopher, born Carla-le-Comte. 20 The wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, 1947. 23 Gabor Matray (1797-1875), Hungarian composer, born Nagykaia. 29 Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848),

DECEMBER 1 Samuel Courtauld (1876-1947), industrialist and art patron, died

Italian composer, born Bergamo.

2 Hernando Cortés (1485-1547). Spanish conquistador, died near Seville. The first part of Sir Christopher Wren's St Paul's Cathedral - the choir - was opened for worship.

6 John Fernstrom (1897-1961). Swedish composer, born I-Chang, Hupei, 7 Saint Ambrose (339-397), Doctor of

the Church, died Milan. 9 George Grossmith (1847-1912), singer, actor and writer, born London. 13 Heinrich Heine (1797-1836), German poet, born Düsseldorf. 14 Edward John Higgins (1864-1947), third general of the Salvation Army 1929-34, died New York.

Stanley Baldwin, 1st Earl Baldwin of Bewdley (1867-1947), Prime Minister 1923-24: 1924-29; 1935-37, died Astley Hall, Worcs. 17 Sir Bernard Spilsbury (1877-1947). pathologist, died London. 23 Martin Opitz (1597-1639), German poet, born Bunzlau. 26 John Wilkes (1727-97), politician,

died London. 29 William Crotch (1775-1847), organist and composer, died Taunton. 30 Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947), mathematician and philosopher, died Cambridge, Mass.



ARTS THE WEEK **AHEAD**

There is no Horror like

British Horror. It has the imprimatur of the most

reliable popularity poll in the arts

- cinema. And 19th-century Brit-

ish horror still rules. When our

flag flew over the Empire on which

the sun never set, and these small

islands controlled a quarter of the

world's trade, we plunged to the

sea bottom in everything as well.

including, it seems, everlasting

nightmares. Jekyll and Hyde,

Count Dracula the vampire, The

Hound of the Baskervilles and

others proudly showed off the

literary manifestations of night-

mares with the discoveries of

Freud and the almost parallel

invention of the cinema, and there

is much in common between these

three weird sisters. But the great-

est horror of them all preceded the

three sisters. It was written in 1817

at the Villa Diodati, by Mary

Godwin, a teenager in love who

sat down one stormy night and

began what became commonly

It would be neat to tie in these

lower depths.



VISUAL ART

New British painting goes on parade for the About Vision show at MCMA in Oxford OPEN: Now REVIEW: Tomorrow



THEATRE

lessica Lange makes her British stage debut in A Streetcar Named Desire at the Haymarket **OPENS: Toright REVIEW: Wednesday**



One for the girls: Boyzone return to home turf for a night at the RDS, Dublin GIG: Tomorrow **REVIEW: Thursday**



Robert King leads his musicians in a New Year's Eve celebration at the Wigmore CONCERT: Tomorrow **REVIEW: Thursday**

New life in Mary Shelley's old monster

known as the Frankenstein story. Christopher Frayling is the lat-est interpreter of what has become the legend behind the legend, and in his television programmes he recently revisited the evidence with all the aplomb of Poirot.

Yet what seems to me overwhelming about Frankenstein is his connection with science. Dr Jekyll shares this to some extent that life-changing potion resembles various experiments with drugs at the time and reflects the sometimes radical changes of character brought on by good oldfashioned alcohol. And Dracula's blood-sucking self-regeneration has some connection with primitive black arts or early science, while Holmes was all Darwin. But Mary Godwin, soon to be Shelley, was the one who detonated the

It could be argued that all

lasting works of imaginative literature must come out of a primal natural condition and the Greeks proved that, if proof were needed. Certainly there is enough of the primal about the turbulent days beside Lake Geneva to give Mary a flying start. She was in love with one wild young poet, Shelley, and in the company of the most famous young poet of his day, the "mad bad and dangerous to know" Lord Byron. Byron was travelling with Polidori, the author of the first real vampire story and a man who committed suicide in his mid-20s. There were sex, drugs and litera-ture at the Villa Diodati, and what was produced might ultimately see off many of the products of today's sex, drugs and rock n'roll.

On the other hand, sex, drugs and other stimuli have haunted the dreams and lives of writers for

work in popular culture. Mary's own double grief was most likely the dynamite. Her mother had died just after she had been born, and she had lost a baby

ing power of this story is, I suggest, its association with the possibilities of science (a point well emphasised in Kenneth Branagh's recent underrated film, Mary Shelley's Frunkenstein). Mary had seen the public electrical experiments which had galvanised dead bodies — of hanged men and newly sufficated frogs — into lifelike muscular convulsions. lifelike muscular convulsions. Electricity was heralded as the true force of life. Mary's wild dream was that she could literally kick-start her dead child back into a breathing being.
All this became what she herself

for ever referred to as "the creature". What you could say is that from that day on, especially in this century, progress has conspired to give the truth to her inspiration. New hearts are exchanged for old thinkable in Mary's day; new

blood, new bone, where will it end? New brain? And the arrival of the gene, with claims being made for the isolating and redeployment of specific genes, all this has brought Frankenstein to a second - and less preposterous - life. By an accident of genius, it seems to me that the young girl who had eloped with the radical poet heard before others the faint murmur of what was to be an earthquake in science, and responded to it at once and

ture of advertising and kiddy foods and multiple masks, jokes and kits, as well as the stuff of films ancient and modern. He has been terrifying, bathetic, forlors and vulnerable. He is far more potent than any creature from the deep or any single creature from out of

space. I doubt if the three-volume edition of Mary's book is much read now, save by scholars and even they might use the abridged single volume for easier reference. But it remains one of the most extraordinary works in our recent literature, begun as thunder and lightning stormed across the mountains and the lake, and a bolt from the heavens seared the imagination of a young English girl in Switzerland.

rofessor Lewis Wolpert, admirable man, fine scientist, and eminent adamant, declares on Radio 4 this morning that the arts had mothing whatsoever" to contribute to science. Coming up at the Royal Institution is a lecture by Richard Holmes, taken from the wreckage of a disastrous course of lectures ungiven by Coleridge at about the time of the creation of Frankenstein and now advertised as .extraordinarily insightful. A great artist on the sciences? We shall see, Professor Wolpert, we shall see . . .

God bless all who sell in her

pensive building will be formally opened next month, but already the Tokyo public is flocking to see the EI billion colossus which, according to its architect, Rafael Virioly, is "a building without doors, open 24 hours a day, with space for 28,000 people at a

The great feature of the Tokyo International Forum is an elliptical hall which towers above the street like an ocean liner in a 1930s travel poster. The difference is that the walls are sheer glass, 70 metres high and 260 metres long. Inside the aquatic feel intensifies, for the steel trusses of the roof plunge downwards, creating the shimmering impression of

The Forum is a very Japanese marriage of commerce and culture, mixing theatres with conference halls and trade shows, political conventions with rock concerts. "It has shopping, a large food court, 14 restaurants, art galleries and a TV station," Viñoly says. "It also has a very large heating and cooling plant which sells air conditioning and steam to buildings near by, generating revenue to

support cultural events." Viñoly has designed his Marcus Binney takes a voyage

through a £lbn

high-tech marvel of architecture

cool, calming, ethereal interior as a complete contrast to the rampant, neon-lit commercialism of the city outside. It also reflects what he likes most about Tokyo — "its multiplicity of levels, allowing you to go down three floors below the street or find cafés on the fourth, fifth and sixth floors above. It is a city that invites you to explore.

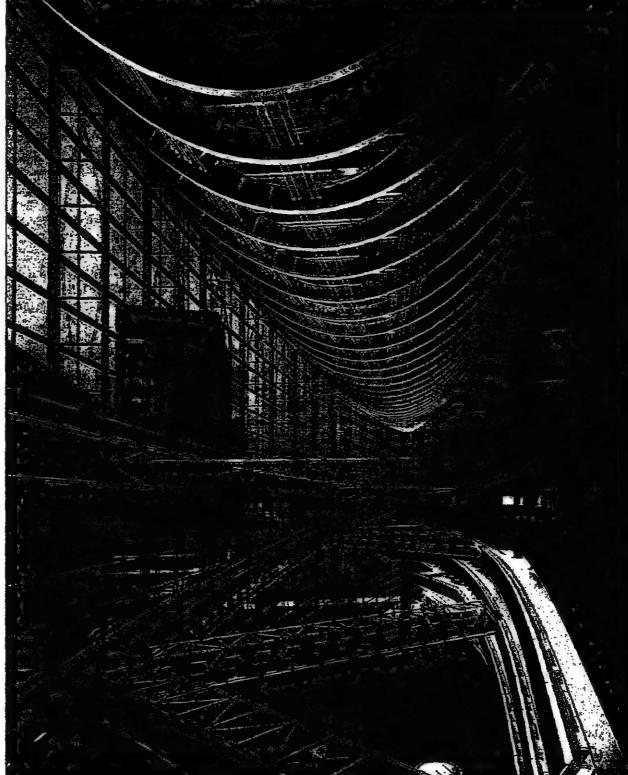
He wanted, he says, create a sense of limitless space and complete transparency when seen from outside". He achieved this by jacking up the boxes containing the four theatres, allowing open circulation beneath. "You feel you are almost flying. The glass hall is crossed by glass bridges which I thought might give people heart attacks, but you very soon get accustomed to it," he says. Viñoly admits that he thought he would lose the competition because of the earthquake problem. But, with the help of a young Japanese structural engineer, Kunio Wanabe, he has de-vised a structural system of very big columns anchored on two sides to a vast mass of

"The maintenance of the building is automatic." Viñoly Both the inner and outer surfaces of the glass have self-cleaning mechanisms. There are robots to paint the steelwork, similar to those which clean the inside of oil pipelines. On the roof, solar collectors gather enough hear to warm the glass hall."

Theatres and rehearsal halls also exploit technology. "Computerised mechanisms can simulate any acoustic condition you desire," he says. A chamber orchestra rehearsing in a small hall can program in the acoustics of a large hall filled with people The ceiling of the 5,000-seat theatre is equipped with 650 loudspeakers, installed by an American acoustician and programmed to allow for every permutation of early and late arrival times.

Every space can be transformed into a TV studio with blackout curtains and screens. When the lights go up, whole walls illuminate. Thinking of staging a fashion show? You can shape the room to your requirements by putting your hands on a model of the building, moulding the ceiling watching it take shape above. What thrills Vinoly is that

he was able to control the detail throughout the four years the Forum took to build. moved 45 of my staff to Tokyo to help to run the project. The big difference is that in Japan everyone works as a team to achieve the objective. whereas in America will sue whom."



"The great feature of the Tokyo International Forum is an elliptical hall which towers like an ocean lizer in a travel poster"

Plenty of gold to mine

EVEN before the first golden power chord soared from Tim Wheeler's guitar, the signs were that Ash's biggest headline gig to date — and their first since returning from their lengthy American sojourn was going to be a triumph. As the curtain was raised to reveal a backdrop of the distinctive Ash logo, more than 7,000 teensgers cheered as one, heightening the moods of anticipation and celebration that engulfed The Point.

Ash dutifully rose to the occasion and set the party

Ash The Point, Dublin

alight thanks to a frantic early whizzed through one glorious pop nugget after another: Goldfinger, Jack Names the Planets. Petrol and particularly Oh Yeah sent the kids into a

It may have been too much to expect the band to keep up this pace and some of the material definitely suffered in comparison to their sparkling hit singles, but as long as Ash continue to follow successfully the musical yellow-brick road that The Undertones, Nirvana et al trod before them, their futore looks very bright

This is my lastever teenage show," declared Wheeler, who turns 20 early next year, wistfully, before launching into a fast and furious Kung Fu. And before we could catch our breath he was gone, leaving more than a few of us marvelling, somewhat envi-ously, at just how much Ash have already achieved.

NICK KELLY

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Dark summer's night

Benjamin Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream received an improbably belated premiere at the Metropolitan Opera, with a lavish, luminous production by Tim Albery, in a debut with the company. The sets, by Albery's frequent collaborator Antony McDonald, appeared to be strongly influenced by David Hockney's theatre designs: great planes of gaudy, fluorescent colour tilted against a deep, velvety gloom, which was occasionally enlivened by glowing childlike sketches. The production placed most of the action on a modestly scaled proscenium within the confines of the Met's cavernous stage.

Albery's Dream takes place in the mind, perhaps of a sleeping child, but this does not clutter the already complicated action with an adventitious programme. It was a very dark production, appropriate to the murky, sometimes sinister doings of the summer night. The forest was suggested only by one enormous tree branch that pierced through several scenes; it was Britten's shimmering, sylvan music, swirling freely in the fathomless darkness, that cre-

ated the facry forest.

The musical values were

A Midsummer Night's Dream New York

unexceptionable: David Atherton, who conducted the Met's premiere of Death in Venice two years ago, led the orchestra in a lovely performance that seemed to rustle thing. Jochen Kowalski wasn't always audible as Oberon, but he played the part well, striding about imperiously in a foppish green velvet suit and scarlet waistooat. Sylvia McNair was ravishing as his queen; in the third act, "Music ho, music such as charmeth sleep" rippled through the house like a suave bolt of summer lightning.

The young lovers, puzzling-ly customed first in boating togs then as long-haired hippies in tie-dyed togas, were well cast, with Rodney Gilfry and Jane Bunnell as Demetrius and Helena, and Kurt Streit and Nancy Gustafson particularly charming as Lysander and Hermia. Peter Rose, another British debutant, played Bottom with amusing tragical mirth" that propelled a deft version of the panto of

Pyramus and Thisby. The weakest member of the cast was Puck, played by a stocky young Hollywood actor called Nick Stahl, who lumbered about cloddishly and spoke his lines as though they were in a foreign language. The four fairies were capably portrayed by lads wearing

OPERA: A double helping of Britten in the Big Apple; plus an unhappy South Bank marriage

arlier this season, the New York City Opera. artistic renaissance with a visionary production of The Turn of the Screw, directed by Mark Lamos, in the first of what promises to be a steady line of co-productions with Glimmerglass Opera. John Conklin's sets were familiar enough: exploded fragments of set, crazily rearranged. Yet the production bristled with ideas, and the level of musical preparation was vastly superi-or to what one had heard here

in recent years. Lauren Flanigan's performance as the Governess was powerful, both vocally and dramatically, and Robert Duerr conducted a fine performance by members of the apparently rejuvenated New York City Opera orchestra.

JAMIE JAMES | business for a very precious

Village Mozart

wisdom has it that The the most perfect work in the repertory, and that performances, no matter how imper-fect, always succeed. It is failsale, but only if you count productions such as Opera Brava's post-Christmas show that work while still being unworthy of Mozart's masterpiece: the opera is played as an amusing divertimento, with none of the simmering ten-

sions that motivate the plot. A programme note claims that the production, by Olivia Fuchs in designs by Tahra Kharibian, is inspired by the commedia dell'arte and the paintings of Goya, but if it evokes a period it is the golden age of village half dramatics. Much of Opera Brava's time is spent playing in small theatres and to picnickers in the grounds of stately homes, and its portable, compact platform looks odd in the middle of the

Queen Elizabeth Hall stage. The strongest dramatic moments are those where the performers are allowed to follow their instincts. Most of the directorial touches are unfunny, beginning with the rushing about during the overture there is also some silly

The Marriage of Figaro Oueen Elizabeth Hall

Don Basilio and the orchestra. Otherwise, this is a bland Figuro, lacking any hint of the class war and sex war that should make it such seething

Biting Mozartian wit is also hard to obtain from a small easemble, and some scrappiness apart the orchestra plays well enough for Ian Page. Best of the cast was Christopher Parke's totally reliable Figuro. a keen, focused baritone who sings words with communicative clarity. Performing in English is part of Opera Brava's credo, but words were not always clear, not even from Amanda Buckland's musical, smoothly-sung Susanna. After a pule start, Christopher Goldsack made a good Count, and Judy Slater was a cheeky Cherubino. Bronek Pomorski, who should stick to his day job as Opera Brava's artistic director, was woefully out of tune in his two bass roles, and

STEED TOMES OWE

Robert Carlin was nasal in his

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OPERA

Regal return: the superb Josephine Burstow takes the title role in Gloriana in Leeds **OPENS: Thursday** REVIEW: Saturday



CIRCUS

The magical Cirque du Soleil company comes to the Albert Hall with Saltimbanco **OPENS: Thursday** REVIEW: Saturday



FILM

Tough guys learn to survive in New York: Robert De Niro stars in Sleepers **OPENS: Friday** REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS

Memories of Gerald Durrell: the author is portrayed in a new biography IN THE SHOPS: Now **REVIEW: Saturday**

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY IN SECTION 2

Where Kean's spirit went for a Burton

If These Walls Could Speak: Benedict Nightingale launches a Times series about buildings that have a special artistic resonance, with a look at the Old Vic

most-loved theatre? To someone in my sion, that is a tricky question, like asking a car to name its favourite petrol station or David Frost his pet airport lounge or Madonna her No 1 bedroom. It could be the Assembly Hall, Tun-bridge Wells, where a moustachioed villain sent me screaming in terror from my first-ever panto, or the gymnasium of the Seaford school where I made a startling stage debut as the Third Witch in

If charm were the criterion, my choice would be, well, the Criterion. I still feel a certain thrill when I go down those stairs, past Victorian tiles commemorating Flotow, Boildieu and other forgotten composers, and into the pretty little auditorium its original owners proudly described as "an underground Temple of Drama into which it is necessary to pump air to save the audience from being asphyxiated". Or it could, and probably should, be the Royal Court, where I came as a teenager in my angriest shirt and suede shoes to watch John Osborne launch a theatrical renaissance back in 1956.

But, no, it has to be the Old Vic. That was where I was taken again and again as a boy to see Richard Burton and John Neville in Shakespeare and where, as a cub reviewer, I saw the members of Laurence Olivier's National Theatre Company prove themselves worthy of the customised Oz on the South Bank into which they unwillingly moved in 1976.

The Vic's current owners, Ed and David Mirvish, have spent millions restoring the Victorian auditorium behind the old Georgian frontage. All is now gold-andpewter lustre, and very nice too. But my first memories are of a shabby, run-down theatre which charged fingers and toes, rather than arms and legs, to those in search of the classics. To an earnest 14-year-old, the piace radiated high seriousness. Today, too, there is a texture, a richness you cannot miss. Think not only of the ghost who reputedly has haunted the Vic when would-be developers have come up with philistine plans — Lilian Baylis, ferociously prowling about in her academic robes — but of those who could also be hovering in the wings. Kean acted there. Grimaldi clowned there. Paganini gave his farewell concert there. Melba sang there, De Valois choreographed Markova there. And there Olivier, Sybil Thorndike, Edith Evans, Peggy Ashcroft, Ralph Richardson, Michael Redgrave, Robert Stephens and many others made their names or

did their best work or both. Mark you, a more unlikely candidate for an ex-officio National Theatre was often hard to imagine. For much of its history, the Vic had

> 6 To an earnest 14-year-old, the place radiated high seriousness ?

a reputation for putting on bad work, attracting crude audiences. and financially ruining its owners. When it opened as the Royal Coburg in 1818, the hope was that an area known largely for its marshes and its thieves would soon improve. Early visitors included adolescent Victoria, who enjoyed an opera called Guy Mannering in what her diary recorded as "a very clean and pretty little theatre".

But the problems soon mounted. Since only the great "patent" theaires north of the river were allowed to present legitimate drama, the Coburg found itself inserting hompipes into Julius Caesar and staging a melodramatic burletta called Macbeth King of Scotland or The Weird Sisters". And the area filled with projetarian, not middle-class, housing. increasingly, the fare consisted of

melodrams staged on the cheap for often rowdy spectators.

As early as 1820 Hazlin felt he was in "a bridewell or brothel, amidst pickpockets, prostitutes and mountebanks, instead of being in the precincts of Mount Parnassus with the Muses". In 1849 Charles Kingsley wrote of "the beggary and rascality of London pouring in to hear their low amusement from the neighbouring gin palaces and thieves' cellars". Mad with resentment at the cheers for the Iago who was playing opposite his Othello, Kean declared at the curtain call he had "never acted to such a set of ignorant, unmitigated brutes as I see before me".

Vic audiences always had their favourites. Mayhew recalled the yells of "Bray-vo Vincent, go it me tulip!" as an actress called Eliza round the stage by her hair and then dashed out her brains, the

n the 1850s more than 2,000 people would sometimes crowd tipsily into much the space now occupied by I.100.
That presumably explains why
during one Boxing Day panto some
16 people were killed in a panicky rush after cries of "fire" greeted the then unusual sight of a man lighting a match in the stalls.

OL DUNISHIS to the place that a most unlikely lessee, the temperance reformer Emma Cons, eventually transformed it into the Royal Victoria Hall Coffee Tavern, planning to offer "the working and lower middle classes recreation such as the music-hall offers but without the attendant moral and social disadvantages".

By 1914 the theatre was in the hands of Lilian Baylis, her niece, who became the most improbable yet most important producer of her day. Stories galore are told of eccentricities that included Baylis

Vincent seized a series of villainous Cossacks by their collars and gave them a hearty shaking. And they did more than boo the baddies. When Bill Sykes dragged Nancy response was a deafening "roar of a dozen escaped menageries" and language never "dreamt of in Bedlam".

> knees to ask God for inexpensive actors, and of solecisms such as telling Charles Laughton after a poor first night: "I'm sure you did

vour best and that one day you may be quite a good Macbeth". But the real point is that during her 23-year tenure she succeeded in her aim of providing inspirational opera, ballet and Shakespeare "for the

Gielgud gave his first Hamlet at the Vic, as did Olivier and Guinness - but then what major modern classical actor did not pass through those grotty dressing

always being short, became famous for their spareness?

Myself, I date my love of Shakespeare from seeing Burton's cunning Henry V. his raging Coriolanus, his fierce Welsh Caliban, his quietly demonic Iago, and a Hamlet so immediate it could have left me echoing the comment of an earlier Old Vic theatregoer: They did 'ave a lot of trouble in the family, them 'amlets". We sat on seats not a lot comfier than the

occupied, and were transported by

that smouldering power.

softer seats, marvelling at the wit Maggie Smith brought to Farguhar's Beaux Stratagem, the subtlety of Gielgud and Richardson in

Pinter's No Man's Land, Redgrave's tormented Master Builder. Rigg and McCowen in Tony Harrison's elegantly updated Misanthrope, Olivier as a 19th-century Shylock with goofy protruding teeth ... but there are so many performances worth remembering and, I suspect, there are many wooden benches the Victorians more to come.

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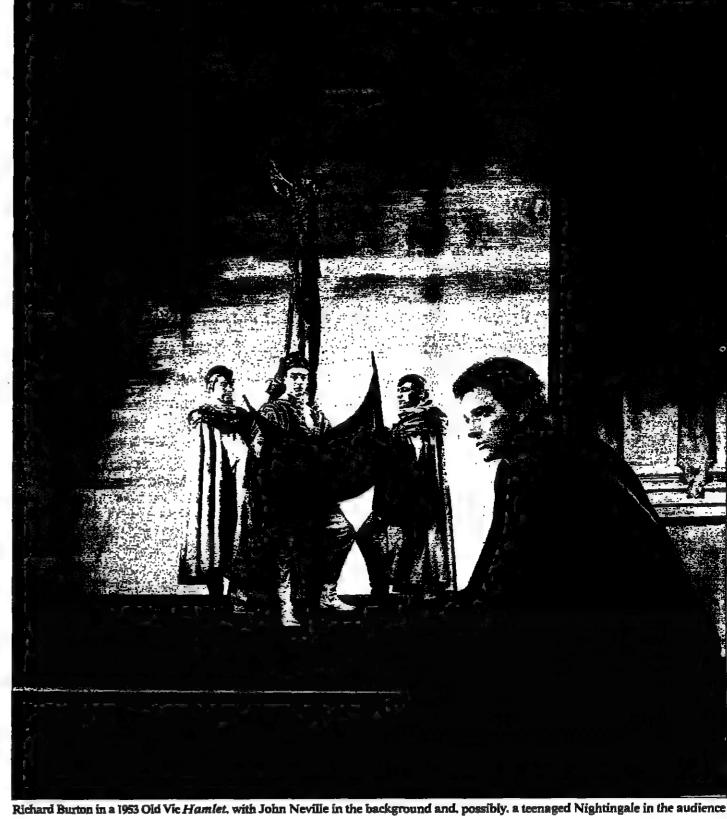
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McTEER

ter's Lear there. Simon Callow staged Carmen Jones there. Peter OToole notoriously resuscitated 19th-century hamminess in the form of a baying, barking Macbeth; but the theatre has yet to find itself a clear role. Will Peter Hall's impending series of revivals, combined with Dominic Dromgoole's premieres, allow the famous old place to acquire a distinctive new personality? I cannot think of a better new year's wish for theatrical

Since the National replaced it. Tomorrow, Rodney Milnes on the the Vic has had its ups and downs. Droutningholm Theore. Sweden



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Matthew Parris



■ Winter? Then it must be waning carols, warring royals and the wrong sort of snow

laic is the content of from Fleet Street. There is now no reason why the process should not be automated and I have been working on a computer software package to replace editors. Daily papers could be produced with just a handful of staff working

Take the annual leading article about the return of the Elgin Marbles. This may be loosely pegged to some "event", but the event is of little consequence: a trigger for an amusing exchange of readers' views, to which I always look forward. The views never change, the marbles never move and there is no reason why the Elgin corres-pondence could not be programmed in advance for a set fortnight (say) in Decem-

Then there is the British Summer Time debate: the publication of statistics for English road deaths. Scottish accidents before sunrise, a leading article, an opinion column by Edwina Cu rie and a lively corres-

pondence for This can be reliably pegged to the last Sunday in October. As reliably, we can schedule the debate about May Day and whether public holiday; the annual rerun of the abdication

from Lord Blake and Lord St John of Fawsley.

Some stories, like the pros and cons of a European single currency, occur roughly formightly. But it should be simple to arrange a mini-storm, following a quote from a politician. from Monday to Wednesday inclusive every two weeks - with the appropriate leader column.

Should we smack children? This is a twice-yearly Issue, while the impending bankruptcy of Eurotunnel occurs about three times a year. The future of the Royal Yacht debate is biannual: the future of the Gurkhas biennial. "Future of" concerns need only the slightest of news pegs, easily con-trived: thus future of the Church of England/West End theatre/the British sitdown supper stories can be ready for use months in advance. "Decline of" sto-ries likewise: of red squirrels/hats/the British high street/the art of conversation/British seaside resorts/chivalry ... these stories can be dusted

down once or twice a year. They are essentially trivia. But space for the great issues of our time can be reserved, too. Every couple of months there must be a commentary about the awakening "tiger economies" of the East; human embryology; the possibili-

ver the years I have noticed how formu-break-up of the two-parent from a right-wing woman please). Every year, as readers groan, I do my Reasoned Case for Homosexual Reform column. I could book my Monday well in advance. There is Prince Charles and architecture, Anglican "reforms", Mus-lim religious education, computer porn, TV violence, adoption. All can be slotted in as required. Optional extras are the phenomenon of Delia Smith, the rights of divorced fathers, the increase/decline of dogs/cats, the growth of obesity among human beings (or pets) and the fashionability of celibacy. These can be interspersed with a

> wing doctor telling us that a little of what we fancy does us good. These can be programmed into next year's papers now. For my computer programme I envisage a central core of articles fixed to

> set dates, an outer ring of

vigorous correspondence on

whether we put the milk or

articles a year from a right-

articles in a holding pattern. waiting to be triggered as or when 'Many required, and (in between) a selecstories tion of seasonal can be articles to be slotted in as approdusted priate. spring should down bring the annual once or piece about the twice death of package holidays just as a year' autumn brings

question (after the Queen's birthday) can be prepared for, with opin-be prepared for, with opin-be prepared for missioned bumper year for package holidays. Similarly with global warming.

Also for spring is reserved the piece about why there are no cuckoos left for us to hear first, why we may be heading for a summer drought and whether the royals are setting a good example by their glitzy skiing holidays.

For the summer we have articles about the British in Tuscany, skin cancer and the decline of wild flowers. Decline of cricket articles and "Phew! What a scorcher!" articles await, as do surveys of smog, inner-city riots and burgeoning icecream sales. The Queen will be snubbed somewhere abroad (probably Australia) and there will be a Times third leader about the silly season, blissfully unaware that it is part of it.

utumn brings arti-A cles on the manage-ment of party conferences, suicides among farmers and whether the Royal Family is setting a good example by hunting. Should fireworks be banned?

Winter brings a lament on the decline of the Christmas carol, the unpre-paredness of local authorities for snow, Royal absentees at Sandringham at Christmas ... and a column by Matthew Parris on how every column but his own is predictable.

Youngsters in care in Britain would benefit from a colour-blind adoption policy, says Paul Barker

ames Barrie's parentiess Peter Pan says he is one of the "lost children". Steven Spielherg took Barrie's story and gave it an extrater-restrial twist in his modern fairytale film ET (BBCl, New Year's Day). ET is yet another lost child. But, like all fairytales. Peter Pan and ET have a real-life psychological

point. No society is without its lost children. Today, in Britain, they are the many thousands in local authority care. They are the subject of increasing scandal and concern, as witness the Prime Minister's reported intention to include proposals for a new Adoption Act in the Conservatives' general election manifesto.

Of course, there are far fewer than in Barrie's day. Then, orphanages and workhouses tried to cope with the abandoned and the bereft. They were put out to learn a trade as soon as possible. Big houses would have been short of servants, and Kitchener even more desperate for soldiers, otherwise. Many were shipped out to the Dominions

Much has changed, including the social acceptability of keeping, rather than giving away, children born outside marriage. Those who now find themselves in care homes are a highly untypical sample of the population. Nor are they so young now. It is seldom hard to find adoptive parents for babies and very young children, provided they are ablebodied. Care homes mostly house teenagers — often with deep troubles. They shuttle in and out of foster

Finding homes for our lost children

families. They seldom come near to being adopted.

But this is not something capable of a magic solution. Barrie could wave his dramatist's wand and give Peter a substitute mother, Wendy. Spielberg could get ET back into the spacecraft. The Prime Minister is right to be concerned about what has been going on in care homes and in social services departments. But his apparent intention to take adoption approval entirely out of the hands of social workers is no abracadabra answer. In my experience, charities are just

as likely to take a hard line on, for example inter-racial adoptions and many of the most ludicrous examples of feet-dragging about adoption approval now relate to race. It was an adoption adviser at a charity who once told me that it was better for a black child to remain in care than go to a white family to be adopted, or even fostered. Nor are the courts without sin in all this.

The ethnic definitions here are, in real life, very slippery. Many of the children are mixed-race (that is

the ferocity of Alabama in the bad old days. There are "whites" and there are "blacks"; no variants are allowed. So a half-white child is deemed to be black, not white. A Sikh child, also defined as "black", may be placed with a Caribbean family even though Sikhs themselves would feel that the two groups have very little, culturally, in common. (The latest census results show that even "Asian" is a term that lumps together wide divergencies of experience.)

ome social workers, especially in London, even reckon that Turkish or Greek Cypriots are honorary blacks, because they belong to an ethnic minority. They might therefore be allowed to adopt a mixed-race child, in preference to "white" parents; or a Cypriot child could be "correctly" placed with a Nigerian family.

It is a tragedy of (mostly) good intentions. Obviously, it would be the best of all possible worlds if an

precisely why some of them are in care). But the doctrine is applied with always be found. But most would-be adopters are white. It cannot be said too often that Britain is not a multiracial society. Ninety-five per cent of the population is of English. Scottish, Irish or Welsh descent. It is no use trying to use adoption policy to battle against this demographic fact (although in London, where many of the daftest policies are pursued, the

ethnic proportion is much higher).

The so-called professionals in this field are mostly, it must be said, a very odd bunch. You only have to go into a care home to begin to wonder about the motives that brought most of the staff there. They are usually without any qualifications for their (very tough) work; many were in care themselves. Even the academics who concern themselves with this shadowland of the welfare state seem not to see the wood for the trees. Some of them argue that care homes are as good as, or better than, a family. Churchill once said that democracy was the worst way of running a country - until you considered the

alternatives. Similarly, everyone knows family life is not all sweetness

knows family lite is not all sweethess and light. But what is better?

Certainly not a care home. I remember, all too vividly, a respected academic telling me how important it was to keep the children's home system running; it had "special strengths". He had taught social work courses for many years. Only work courses for many years. Only later did it emerge that he was part of a child pornography network.

Nothing can be done overnight.

That would cause more problems than it solved. But the system of children's homes has become a moral cesspit. (This is not, of course, to condemn every individual home.) Over a shortish period, they should be closed down as the workhouses eventually were. Only the most traumatised young people should be treated differently, and they should be given truly professional care. Social workers, charities and the courts should be given formal instructions to operate a colour-blind

None of this, probably, requires a new Adoption Act. But it does require determination. We are talking about a tiny minority of children. Many come from what it is now fashionable to call the underclass. We should do everything we can to encourage them to get out, and get on. They should not be left in a lost world. They must be helped to find themselves.

Paul Barker is a Senior Fellow of the Institute of Community Studies

Defenders of the faith

got it right in his criticism of the Church of England. If I had gramme's "Personality of the Year" ballot, it would not have been for John Major, who is surely a question for 1997 rather than 1996, or even for one of the admirable women. I would have voted for George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

All religious leadership depends on

the spirituality of the leader. What congregations are looking for is a personal faith which will strengthen their own. George Carey's objective is to be a good, ordinary man. He is not one of those highly charismatic religious leaders whose personality at the highest reminds one of the human personality of Jesus: he does remind one much more of the first Apostles. He might have been happy to spend his early life hauling fish out of the sea of Galilee, a competent workaday fisherman, quite surprised to be called to higher things. Yet he was pleasantly surprised to find himself called the Archbishop of

People are moved by faith, as by nothing else. The three most celebrated religious figures of the present time are the Dalai Lama, Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa. Each of them radiates faith; it is a type of transfiguration. The Dalai Lama is perhaps the most moving of the three because he has taken on himself the national suffering of Tibet, yet retains his love for the Chinese people. This is true Buddhism. In The

Good Heart, the Dalai Lama's reflections on Christian doctrines, which was published this year by Ryder, he states: "The essence of the Buddha's teaching is embodied in the Four Noble Truths: the truth of suffering, the truth of the origin of suffering, the truth of the cessation and the truth of the path leading to this cessation."

His attitude to China is also true Christianity, reminiscent of Christ's words on the Cross: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." Nothing would do more for the future happiness of China than a revival of Buddhist spirituality through contact with Tibet.

A revival in any religion can only come from a revival of faith. People are once again being drawn towards the Church of England; in particular, the quality of recently ordained clergy, both with young and mature vocations, is said to be exceptionally high. If one believed some of my colleagues in the press, one would suppose that the Church of England clergy now largely consisted of gay curates prancing about in birettas

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Prince of Wales have a common aim: to promote a spiritual revival that

strengthens belief without fostering religious bigotry





George Carey is leading his flock by example, while Prince Charles has refused to be narrow-minded

and calling each other by shrill, girlish nicknames. I admit that I never meet such people; the people I do occasionally meet are old, bachefor dergymen for whom their sexuality may be a thorn in the flesh, who seem singularly devoted to the welfare of their often impoverished parishes. Even before Aids, homosexuality involved suffering and suffering often develops the ability to

sympathise with others. George Carey's personality has a steady rather than a dramatic pulling power. He recently said: "When I actually meet politicians, the Government, the Royal Family, members of the House of Lords and so on, they are remarkably ordinary people. When you get close to them, they are the same as my Aunt Ethel."

It is his nature to deal with people without too much regard for their trappings or for his own; he is an Aunt Ethel Archbishop himself, a

Sedgefield locals have taken the news with customary stoicism: "Ir's a real shame. A lot of people look

forward to seeing them there," says Blair's agent, John Burton, "But

Tony is enjoying a glittering career and with a bit of luck, this could be

the last chance he gets to relax for a

reliable friend rather than a spellbinding preacher, a quiet parish priest to the nation. He does not see other people as being particularly grand and does not at all wish to be thought of as grand himself. He is as comfortable in this persona as the

William Rees-Mogg

Duke of Devonshire, who is probably the best-mannered man in England. is in his. The Duke of Devonshire treats everyone as a duke. George Carey treats everyone as his Aunt

Just before Christmas, the Archbishop had a meeting with the Prince of Wales. Prince Charles has been considering his future relationship to the Church of England, of which he will become Supreme Governor; The Daily Telegraph has had a sight of the document. The Prince of Wales has felt some dissatisfaction with the Church of England; even this policy document is quoted as saying: "The Church I love has been swept away by pathetic, politically correct 'progressives"." That no doubt seems exaggerated, but the Prince's combination of conservatism with ecumenicism reflects attitudes commoner in the pew than in the synod.

The Prince of Wales is important, even essential, to the future of the Church of England. He is the first heir to the throne since the Stuarts to take an intellectual interest in religion. Several monarchs have had a robust, simple faith, but he has something more developed than that. He has thought deeply about religion

and seems to have thought wisely. He has absorbed a genuine ecumen-

There may be conservatives in the Church of England, as there are in the Roman Catholic Church, who think that their subsection of their Church's position is the sole truth. that other Christians are in error and that Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and followers of other faiths are just

so many types of pagan.

Prince Charles has explicitly rejected this view, and has been criticised for doing so. Of course, Prince Charles is right to see the virtues of the teaching of Islam, he is right to attend the opening of a Hindu temple, he is right to show his respect for all branches of Christianity. As George Carey has said, Prince Charles is "a man who takes faith seriously". It is not serious to squat like a frog in one's own puddle of belief and pretend that is the ocean of

There are still Anglicans and Roman Catholics who do adopt a narrowly sectarian point of view. Fortunately, George Carey and the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, are completely free

n terms of their congregations. the two Churches are of approximately equal size, but are historically connected to different groups. The Church of England is what it says, a Church with a powerful national appeal, at its strongest where the English culture is most cherished. The Roman Catholic Church is much more Celtic, still with strong connections to the descendants of the Irish immigrants of

the past 200 years.

The two Churches have different intellectual traditions, national status and international connections. When they work together they are much more effective than when they work separately, let alone when they are in apparent conflict.

They both have the same aim, to re-Christianise what has become a largely pagan Britain. This is not an evangelism which is hostile to other faiths; if the Dalai Lama's example suddenly inspired a million British people to convert to Tibetan Bud-dhism, Britain would become a more compassionate and, in some ways, a more Christian country. The culture that needs to be evangelised is the sceptical materialism of the modern' world. One can apply to both Archbishops the phrase George Carey used of the Prince of Wales. They are both "serious about faith", and they are making some headway against the wind of our age.

Nanny state

JUST days after Jemima Gold-smith explained through the press how she planned to bring up her son as an Urdu-speaking Muslim. the strikingly beautiful daughter of billionaire Sir James Goldsmith has slipped off to Pakistan.

Jemima flew out on Saturday afternoon taking baby Sulaiman to his native country for the first time. accompanied by his new nanny, a London-based Pakistani girl in her

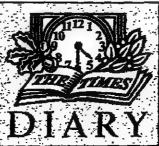


With her mother, Lady Annabel, in Barbados and her father and the rest of the family at Sir James's hacienda in Mexico, she opted to join her husband Imran in Lahore rather than stay in London to see in the new year. The nanny has just been appoint-

ed after an exacting search for somebody prepared to look after Sulaiman in the run-up to the Pakistani elections in February, when both Imran and Jemima will be campaigning. She was recommended by the mother of one of Jemima's close friends and, with family in Pakistan, is happy to fit in with the household plans.

Jemima has taken quickly to motherhood, breast-feeding and changing nappies like a bustling young wet nurse. She maintains that Sulaiman has inherited imran's looks. Although the Muslim child has no true godparents, Jemima's close friend Vicky Tompkins, the Green Shield stamps heiress, has been awarded an honorary role in that department.

President Clinton didn't hold



menu was long on carbohydrates:

Minus gala

SEDGEFIELD in Co Durham will be without its MP for the new year celebrations. Tony Blair, who with Cherie traditionally enjoys a constituency singalong with pints of beer, mince pies and lags from the local Labour club, has received an alternative invitation.

Sir David Puttnam has asked the Blairs to be guests of honour at the back on Christmas Day at the champagne-scaked party he plans White House this year, where the at his sizeable home in Ireland.



few years."
John Major, meanwhile, will be spending a modest New Year's Eve at Chequers with a small gathering of friends and family. He isn't planning a party - which will come as no surprise to those carping souls

turkey with white bread and corn bread stuffing, peppered ham, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes. dinner rolls and a relish tray as well as cherry jello, pumpkin and lemon meringue pie and chocolate



"Hoping to impress Prince Charles with your muscular Christianity, Gordon?

who maintain he can't actually manage one.

Hankies out

A VILE contagion has afflicted the Royal Shakespeare Company. The flu epidemic now gripping the country by its throat has all but seen off the RSC's Barbican production of As You Like It. Friday was a night for under-

studies when four performers, including the impressive Joseph Fiennes, brother of Ralph, were laid low and couldn't muster an appearance on stage. After a monumental reshuffle, seven actors played different parts from those billed in the programme. Many who refused to succumb to the ague, such as the company veteran John Woodvine, coughed and spluttered their way through the drama. This bug knows no thespian boundaries - for it has spread to Stratford, where actors are dropping like ninepins.

Son down



Elizabeth Hurley with her companion Henry Dent-Brocklehurst

against King's Canterbury, one of in Gloucestershire, has been telling for him. The heir to the throne was prostrate on the floor when the boy boldly attempted to stamp on him. Before he could lift his rugger boot, however, the tyke was hauled off and sent packing from the field of

Shooting star

WE CAN expect to see more of Eliz-IT'S not just teenage girls pressing flowers on Prince William who are making his life difficult. When the Prince was playing for the Eton Prince was playing for the Eton parties this Christmas at his E50 million estate, Sudeley Castle

the opposition team made a beeline friends that he plans to return permanently to Britain.

It was Henry who provided Liz with a shoulder to cry on after Hugh Grant was caught with a prostitute in his car off Sunset Boulevard; he has also been her companion in Los Angeles, where he runs a film company. But these crisp December mornings and high-flying birds appear to be woo-ing him back to Britain — and where Henry goes, you can be sure that Liz is not far behind. He has told friends that he will return to Britain this April.



A CHRISTMAS MYSTERY

Clinton's intentions for a second term remain elusive

our years into his presidency, and some even weeks after his re-election, Americans emain unsure about what Bill Clinton vants to achieve in his second term. Vashington awaits an inaugural address next month in the hope that it will end the incertainty. Beyond noting that his speech vould be "somewhat longer" than his first such delivery (words that will instil fear imong those attending the ceremony), Mr Clinton seems content to bide his time and keep his own counsel.

The President could continue with the Dopulist strategy that served him so well on he campaign trail. Thus he would conentrate on the ceremonial and symbolic aspects of his post, placing his political energy on sustaining economic growth and 22 pturing the credit for it. At home he would adopt an essentially responsive position. He would allow the Republican Congress to formulate most domestic legislation which he could then veto or not largely on the basis of public opinion polls. In foreign affairs, he would remain cautious in his personal engagement, keeping the promo-tion of American trade and the minimisaton of military risks as its watchwords. That was an enticing formula for can-

didate Clinton. But deprived of any future rendezvous with the American electorate, it may not be enough. Instead there is his place in history to be contemplated. He is a keen consumer of political biographies. So it is difficult to imagine this son of Oxford and Yale being without interest in what others have to say about him. As he will be just 54 when placed in enforced retirement, he will have to listen to it for years to come.

He might then adopt a more ambitious agenda. An obvious one exists if he is minded to co-operate with Republicans on Capitol Hill. He could enter serious negotiations to balance the budget. In so doing he could promote serious reforms of the publicly funded healthcare systems - Medicare and Medicaid - which will otherwise soon run into severe financial difficulties. He could start the process of reinventing the social security programme which faces: a demographic crisis when baby-boomers such as Mr Clinton start claiming their pensions. He could seek the title of "the Great Fixer": a President not much loved but highly effective.

However attractive such a scenario might seem, it would involve concessions to Speaker, Newt Gingrich, and the Senate majority leader, Trent Lott. It would be attacked by the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. Mr Clinton might feel safer accepting the traditional path taken by many of his predecessors: that of embracing international affairs and the role of statesman and peacemaker. That would necessitate a major shift in White House priorities. This may prove too taxing for a man who has been so committed to the detail of domestic policy. The world is not currently overburdened with conflicts that can be

mitigated by presidential fiat, So far Mr Clinton has given little indication of his planning. Nor have his recent appointments offered many clues. The selection of Erskine Bowles, a distinctly centrist figure, as White House Chief of Staff may appeal to Republicans. Alternatively, the elevation of Madeleine Albright might make most sense if the President intended to become more active in overseas affairs. The obvious influence and interests of Vice-President Al Gore could make the quest for popularity an all-pervasive factor. Quite possibly the President himself has not decided yet.

The United States and the wider world must hope that history weighs heavily on the President's mind. Four years of partisan gridlock and government by Gallup would do little for public policy.

CHARLES AND HIS CHURCH

Anglicans will welcome an involved but sensitive Prince

The Church of England has always been a delicate if surprisingly robust institution. It seeks to offer answers of reasonable clarity to fundamental questions while encouraging tolerance and diversity. That balancing act repeats itself in the fragile relationship between Crown and Canterbury, Crown and Church, Crown and congregation.

The monarch is expected to be Supreme Governor, but not govern: defender of the faith but not designer of it. It is little wonder that most occurpants of the throne have found those aspects of constitutional monarchy that touch upon the political sphere easier in practice than those which encreach on matters spiritual.

The Prince of Wales has apparently decided to devote a larger proportion of his time to the Church of England. He has also signalled his frustration with recent reforms he believes have been driven through by "pathetic politically correct progressives". One immediate aspect of that additional energy is his enthusiasm for the proposed millennium village: a £123million proposal that would combine a 10,000-seat "super church" with a huge hostel designed to provide inexpensive accommodation for young people visiting London. To proceed, this project would require £50million in lottery funding.

This concentration on Anglicanism comes after a decade in which the Prince has displayed a broad and intense interest in spiritual issues. He has also taken particular care to familiarise himself with the worlds of Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims. To his enormous annoyance, to which he is entitled, such activities have seen him stigmatised as some sort of New Age mystic, adopting theological thinking on an à la carte basis. This is a particular irony, given the rather traditionalist opinions he has expressed on liturgical arguments.

In this new approach he would be wise to proceed gently and with some caution. His views will be scrutinised with special vigour by liberals, evangelicals and conservatives alike. It may indeed be the case that politically correct progressives exercise undue influence. If so that has been as much the fault of inactivity and indulgence among those who preferred the pre-existing faith as any conscious coup hatched by determined radicals. To describe all contemporary change within the Church, especially the introduction of women priests, as proceeding from trendy notions would be as harsh a misinterpretation as that from which the Prince suspects he himself has suffered.

Similarly, there will be heated debate about the millennium village. That concept proceeds from a thoroughly justified concern about the secular character of most celebrations planned so far for the turn of the century. The idea is bold and imaginative, but some will ask whether, in principle, Anglicans should accept lottery financing for their activities.

Most Anglicans will welcome greater involvement from Prince Charles. Given the formidable force he has offered to other causes that have captured his attention, the Church of England, which requires rather more love from rather more quarters than just St James's Palace, can only benefit from a more involved Prince. To maximise his influence he will need sensitivity. He should speak softly and not carry a big stick.

A GOOD SHELF-LIFE

One hundred and fifty years ago: a vintage year for the novel

The year 1847 was an annus mirabilis for the English novel. Becky Sharp was making her unscrupulous way up through the rich. strata of early 19th-century society in Thackeray's Vanity Fair. In Dickens's new novel, Dombey and Son, the crusty head of a shipping house mourned the death of his little boy along with the whole nation.

On top of that, it was the year when all the three Brontë sisters launched themselves on

the world as novelists - even though they were then still halfdisguised as Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell. Charlotte's Jane Eyre bowled its readers over at once by giving sensible, adult conversations between women

and men; a few clucking voices suggested it was not fit for young ladies. Emily's Wuthering Heights knocked its readers out just as successfully; reviewers merely wrung their hands over its morbidity. Anne's story of the trials of a governess. Agnes Grey, quietly established itself.

Meanwhile Disraeli brought out the third book in his political trilogy. Tancred. Its story of a young man who abandons White's Club to go to Jerusalem and find a faith for himself was ropical in a year when battle was being raged over whether a Jewish

Member should sit in Parliament These six novels would have made a stunning shortlist for the 1847 Booker Prize. They would have led to some unholy rows. The proto-feminists on the jury would have quarrelled among themselves over the three Brome girls. Gladstone - although he could

not bear Disraeli - would have given his vote to Tancred, since he was busy that year outraging voters in his Oxford constituency by supporting the Jewish Member. In the end, it would have been a choice between Dickens and Thackeray, the hearts rooting for Dombey and the heads prevailing.

Who among our own recent novelists will still be as much read as all these novels are now, in another 150 years? The question will

not arise, since communication by then will probably be con-ducted entirely through the new medium of Europics. But if the written English language survives, there are a few candidates for that posterity.

Evelyn Waugh's Sword of Honour trilogy and Anthony Powell's A Dance to the Music of Time have already shown a good deal of staying power and both have the historical scope of the great Victorian novels. The extraordinary moral romances of Iris Murdoch could go on haunting later generations. Tom Wolfe's The Bonfire of the Vanities tackles the life of New York with the panache and power of Vanity Fair — and perhaps deliberately makes that claim in its title.

Whatever future readers may think, readers today still long for novels such as those that erupted 150 years ago. All those six are still in print and selling briskly (well, perhaps Tancred is flagging). We could apply to them something Tennyson wrote in The Princess - also published in that amazing year 1847 - "How sad, how fresh, the days that are no more".

TERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Justice done and seen to be done

From Sir Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, Mr Justice Latham is to be congranulated on his ruling ("Judge backs prisoners over interviews with med-ia", December 20) that lay people seeking to correct alleged miscarriages of justice should be permitted to interview claimants in prison in addi-

tion to corresponding with them.
In the several cases, bar one, which once investigated I would not have felt competent to pursue any without having first made sure that the claimants were available to speak to me in person. The exception was Timothy Evans who, having been hanged in error over the Rillington Place murders, was no longer available.
In correspondence only, however

persuasive the documentation, one can never be certain that the claimant is telling the truth. In a personal interview there is a far better chance. Guilty men, I have found, are inclined to assert innocence with a show of outrage. The innocent, on the other hand, tend quietly to assume it. The guilty, too, shy away from discussing the evidence, while for the truly

given and suppressed, which is at the heart of their case. When I asked one claimant if he was willing for me to look into his case, even if my findings were not in his favour, he agreed unhesitatingly. The guilty are apt not to agree or else

innocent it is the detailed evidence,

do so reluctantly. incidentally, I was astonished to see that the published list of 14 members of the new Criminal Cases Review Commission, given in a parlia-mentary written answer by the Home Secretary on December 18 (details, early editions, December 20), does not contain a single lay campaigner in this field (eg. Chris Mullin, MP. David Jessel, Bob Woffinden, the journalist named in your December 20 report, Robert Kee and Paul Foot). with a proven record of success.

Yours etc. LUDOVIC KENNEDY. Ashdown, Avebury, Wiltshire. December 27.

View on compensation

From Mr Frank Metcalfe

Sir. Once more an ex-orisoner of war of the Japanese pleads (letter, December 17) for further compensation for hardships suffered there (report, Dec-

Nowadays compensation has become all the rage. We have policemen for doing their duty at a football tragedy (report, June 4), a murderer seeking compensation for inadequate medical support (report, December 13) and heaven knows how many more claims in the pipeline.

Whatever happened to British manhood? It wasn't exactly a picnic to be wounded, wet and sick in a dinghy in the North Sea (November 1940) after an interrupted bombing raid on Germany, followed by many months in hospital having my face rebuilt, but I'd have been ashamed to seek money for protecting my country or doing my

I think, too, of my many colleagues who didn't have the luck I had. What of their compensation?

Yours truly, FRANK METCALFE, 3 Blacksmiths Lane. St Michael's, St Albans Hertfordshire. December 20.

Fathers who smoke

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, You report (December 17) that one in seven of all childhood cancers may have been caused by fathers who were smokers prior to conception. This figure was calculated by analysing statistics for three years in the Fifties. when you show a total of 1,952 such deaths, an average of 651 a year, of which 93 would therefore be attributable to smoking fathers.

In the relevant period there were some 800,000 live births a year, and over two thirds of male adults were smokers. It therefore follows that their habit may have been responsible for the death of one in every 5,400, at least, of their offspring, or 0.018 per

This may be of reassurance to smoking fathers such as myself who have young children.

Yours faithfully, JOHN KILBRACKEN, House of Lords.

Quota hopping

From Mr Francis Deutsch

Sir, With reference to your report on fish quotas (December 21), a boat owner freely sells his licence. He uses a broker who has access to all relevant information. The buyer freely buys on the same basis. His catch is then limited by the same law, although he may be a Dutch or Spanish citizen. It is an open and perfect market.

Our Government and its more right-wing followers believe in the wisdom of the market. What, then, is the rationale for their objection to quota hopping?

Yours faithfully, F. DEUTSCH. 14 West View, NW4. December 26.

The place for Catholic schools within modern morality

From Sir David Goodall

Sir. In his sympathetic piece today, "Religious schools against the world". William Rees-Mogg draws a critical dividing line between schools that teach a morality based on religious belief and those that do not.

The problem is that a morality derived from religious belief carries no conviction unless that religious belief is perceived as central to the lives of those who teach it. There is therefore an equally critical dividing line between schools which are based on a community of living faith and schools where religious belief and practice are in effect optional extras to be left largely to the chaplain.

In Britain today, the believing Christian is a deviant in a society where the Christian world-view and a fortiori the Roman Catholic world-view - is regarded as quaint, if not actually perverse: liberal agnosticism is the norm. And since there is a social dimension to belief, what we find credible depends as much on whether the majority of people with whom we live take it seriously as on whether it is true. Humanly speaking, a Christian world-view loses its plausibility, even for the believer, unless it is fully shared and lived by people whose intellectual capacity commands respect and whose Christian lifestyle carries conviction.

For the Christian or Catholic parent, the true value of a monastic school is that it is centred on a community which meets that requirement in a way which is becoming almost unique. Whatever its other advantages, I doubt whether Eton would wish to make the same claim.

DAVID GOODALL Greystones, Ampleforth, York. December 23.

From the Headmaster of Prior Park College

Sir, A fundamental purpose of a Catholic independent school, such as this one, is to attract those Catholic parents who are considering the independent sector of education for their children and then to persuade them, by what the school offers, to apply for

This task is not made easier by the provision of Catholic chaplains in Anglican schools. The "league table mentality" and a wish by certain Catholic

Britain's diverse faiths

Sir. I heartily congratulate Mr Israr

Khan on speaking out and reminding

where he teaches whom they worship

freport, December 19). To a secular

society it may not matter what people

do as part of their faith, as all faiths to

these secularists hold no truth. How-

ever, with us Muslims, following the

truth is the primary essence of our

faith and any contamination is strong-

obstinate in following Islam, and no matter how emotional and nostalgic

this Pagan/Christian festival of

Christmas may be to some, to Mus-

lims it is a continuation of practices of

I disagree with the Provost of Bir-

mingham, the Very Reverend Peter

Berry, that we live in a "Christian

country" (early editions. December

19); rather we live in a democratic

country, and tolerance does not imply

sharing religious practices of other

Sir, I challenge the anecdotal asser-

tion made by Ms Beverley Beech

(letter, December 23) that recent

"forced" Caesarean section cases have

The matter was discussed at a

recent meeting in this hospital. The six

consultants present have a cumulated

experience of almost 150 years in the

specialty throughout Britain. Not one

of us had ever experienced a situation

in which any suggested care policy

was "enforced" contrary to the worn-

What is more, no such situation has

arisen in the 25 years since this mat-

ernity hospital opened, during which

Sir, Mr Graham Downing of the Brit-

ish Shooting Sports Council was re-ported (December 19) as saying that

licence-holding gun sportsmen are

no more dangerous than any other sportsmen". I do not agree.

ber holding a firearms certificate was

accused and cleared of the man-

slaughter of a man whom he shot

dead with a 25 auto Baby Browning

pistol. The accused said that he saw

someone meddling with his car. He pulled out his pistol from his pocket -

he did not know that it was loaded -

but as he cocked it to warn the suspec-

Would a termis racket or a cricket

ted car thief it went off accidentally.

bat wielded by a sportsman produce a-similarly tragic result (letters, Decem-

38 Blandford Avenue, Oxford.

ber 20, 24, 26)?

Yours faithfully,

N. KURTI.

In October 1996, a gun-club mem-

an's wishes.

Gun debate

From Professor Emeritus Nicholas Kurti, FRS

'Forced' Caesarians

From Professor G. M. Stirrat

changed attitudes to consent.

Thus, we are unapologetically very

ly shunned.

falsehood and lies.

the Muslim children at the school

From Mr Karim Chowdhury

lishment" - reasons suggested in your report (December 21) - might also play a part in some cases. However, in over 11 years of headship of Catholic independent schools, my overwhelming impression is that parental choices are usually based on more sensible and discerning criteria.

families to be accepted by the "Estab-

Parents are interested in the religious teaching, spiritual life and moral values of a Catholic school and want to assess how well these are lived out in the school community. Also, they want to exercise their right to scrutinise teaching standards, facilities and results (of which league tables are one of the helpful indications). Usually they have to think their way through complex and competing considerations to arrive at a decision which they hope will serve the needs of all the

family members. Coeducation might, therefore, be preferred to single-sex schooling so that, in severely busy lives, precious holiday time and school visits can be the same for sons and daughters. The distance and time taken from home to school are almost always crucial, as is cost, and so the question of day or boarding (weekly or full boarding) comes into focus. Furthermore, it is increasingly less common for both parents to be Catholic.

Despite all these factors, there is still, in most areas, a sufficient variety of vigorous and very attractive Catholic independent schools to meet the majority of parents' needs and aspir-

Yours faithfully. GILES MERCER. Prior Park College, Bath. December 21.

From Mr John Mills

Sir, William Rees-Mogg makes a good case, but missed one obvious and simple point: access.

For us to have sent our son to Ampleforth would make it hard for us to see him from term to term. The driving time from Berkshire to North Yorkshire is up to six hours — a pilgrimage by anyone's standards. House plays, school matches, those impromptu visits that maintain contact and continuity with your child and the school, would be lost.

Much more important for us, as a practising Catholic family with a son at Eton, is the opportunity to take him with us to Mass every Sunday. In this

others to practise their wavs whether

Sir, Disrespect shown by a Muslim

teacher for the Christian culture at a

carol concert in a school at Bir-mingham highlights the potential

damage to race relations which the

thoughtless action of a religious zealot

As a teacher he should have known

that his pupils would benefit through

understanding of diverse faiths. Per-

haps he should have read the speech

made by the Prince of Wales (letters,

Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

over 100,000 women have been cared

for. We suggest that this is likely to be

the experience of the vast majority of

our midwifery and obstetric col-

It is vital that midwives, general

practitioners and obstetricians work

together with the mother to determine

what is in the best interests of herself

and her baby. We trust that we will

never find ourselves faced with the

need to approach a court of law on a matter of clinical care.

Sir, I cannot understand why it might

be considered entirely proper for me to express opinions on ballet, opera

and the arts, for example, on emotion

al grounds, thereby possibly affecting

the livelihood and wellbeing of many

in those fields, but were I to do so on

the matter of handgun legislation, I

Surely, emotion has legitimacy in

most issues, including this one. What

matters is not whether opinions are

emotional or rational, but that deci-

sions based upon them stand the test

Victoria Road, Dartmouth, Devon.

Letters that are intended

for publication should carry a

daytime telephone number. They

may be sent to a fax number

0171-782 5046.

Yours sincerely.

December 19.

can inflict.

December 21).

Yours sincerely.

I Woodbine Avenue,

leagues in the UK.

Yours sincerely,

Department of

December 26.

GORDON M. STIRRAT,

Obstetrics and Gynaecology, St Michael's Hospital, Bristol.

University of Bristol,

From Mr Brian Parker

would be castigated.

Yours sincerely, B. H. PARKER,

Rook House,

December 20.

OM MIDHA,

December 23.

KARIM CHOWDHURY,

64 Warren Street, Wl.

From Mr Om P. Midha

we think these practices are true or

he sees our enthusiasm and commit-ment to our faith, thus fulfilling the old adage: "The family that prays together, stays together."

Yours faithfully, JOHN MILLS, The Old Barn, Rectory Road, Streatley, Berkshire.

December 24.

From Dr Keith Amery

Sir. It seems that some sections of the Catholic Church are dismayed at the support among wealthy Catholics for secular education in the independent sector. Some of us, however, consider it to be a healthy sign now that both Catholic and non-Catholic schools

have a more mixed intake. To suggest that a Catholic education, by virtue of being Catholic, is morally superior to a secular one is nonsense. Surely it all depends upon the school. Few parents are prepared to part with over £12,000 a year for

moral fibre and an affected accent. Parents rightly put a sound education first. Without this, the next generation will not be able to afford the fees for their own children.

Yours faithfully KEITH AMERY. Dean House, Wyddial, Buntingford, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Alan Finlay

Sir, I believe that most rather than merely "some" parents send their children to public schools like Eton not out of concern for their eternal souls but in an attempt to buy them a privileged position in society — "networking", as William Rees-Mogg

For the rest of the population who, unlike Lord Rees-Mogg and his friends, cannot send their children to either Eton or Ampleforth, the state-funded and regulated education system must be improved, not through the illogicalities of fundamentalist religious instruction but through the teaching of basic human values which transcend religious folklore: respect for the family and each other, rather than the greedy self-interest that is manifest throughout British society.

Yours sincerely, ALAN FINLAY, 23 Foscote Road, NW4. December 24.

faiths but respecting the rights of Lessons of history

From Dr Olga Ashby

Sir, I am a citizen of the former USSR. educated in Kishinev and Moscow during the 1980s, who has lived in England for the past two years. I am currently midway through a GCSE course in English language/literature for which one of our topics of study is Tennyson's poem The Charge of the Light Brigade.

In that poem it is said that the battle was lost for the British solely because of gross blunders made by their commanding officers. In contrast, we were taught that the battle represented a triumph of Russian strategy, much as Agincourt is regarded by the English.

Further, during our discussions on the poem the "original" nurse, Florence Nightingale, was mentioned. At my school we were told stories of another "original" nurse, who tended the Russian wounded of the Crimean War — Dasha Sevastopolskaya.

These two small items illustrate the subtlety of the cultural divide between the two sides of the former Iron Curtain - we were facing in opposite directions for sixty years. We should bear these perceptual differences in mind as we try to cancel the years of mutual isolation and attempt to live as partners in the new greater Europe.

OLGA ÁSHBY. 35 Bath Street, Leek, Staffordshire. December 26.

Fully furnished

From Mrs Mair Edwards, JP

Sir, I recently received a letter addressed to the Chair of the Bench (letters, December 18, 23). It made me wonder whether I was being cut down to size.

Yours truly, M. E. EDWARDS, Cae Halen Mawr, Llandwrog, Caernarfon, Gwynedd. December 27.

From Mr Ian G. Sampson

Sir, The meetings I used to find most difficult to conduct were those held. according to the minute-taker. "under the chair of Mr Sampson".

Yours faithfully, IAN SAMPSON, 10 Crossway. Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

From Mr Rupert Steele

Sir, Your correspondence about the control of meetings by furniture reminds me of a colleague's story of an "old Labour" meeting which collapsed

on points of order. Rather more graphically than he perhaps intended, the minute-taker recorded that "The Platform did not support the Chair, and the Floor did not support the Platform."

Yours faithfully, R. P. STEELE. 40 Elliott Road, Chiswick, W4. December 27.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM NORFOLK

December 29: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning. The Bishop of Norwich preached the Sermon.

CLARENCE HOUSE December 28: The Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded Dame Frances Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Otto Kotzebue, navigator, Tallin, Estonia, 1787; Rudyard Kipling, poet and novelist, Nobel laureate 1907. Bombay, 1865: Stephen Leacock, humorous writer and economist. Swanmore, Hampshire, 1869: Sir Carol Reed, film director. Putney.

DEATHS: Jean Baptist van Helmont, chemist, Vilvorde, near Brussels, 1644: Robert Boyle, chemist and physicist, London, 1691; John Needham, priest and man of science, Brussels, 1781; Sir William White Baker, explorer in Africa, Newton Abbot, Devon. 1893; Amelia Bloomer, campaigner for women's rights. 1894; Rufus Isaacs, 1st Marquess of Reading, Lord Chief Justice 1913-21, Viceroy of India 1921-26, London, 1935; Romain Rolland, novelist and biographer, Nobel laureate 1915, Vezelay, France, 1944; Alfred North Whitehead, philosopher and mathemat-Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1947; Trygve Lie, first Secretary-General of the UN 1946-52, Geilo, Norway, 1968. Transvaal became a republic with Paul Kruger as the first

A petition addressed to Quee Victoria, signed by 1,000,000 women, appealing for public houses to be closed on Sundays, was handed to the Home Secretary, 1887.

Russia officially became the USSR. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 1922.

Church news

Appointments The Rev Simon Richard Gales, diocese, to be Vicar of Lindow, Charier diocese.

The Rev Clive Roger Evans, Curate of Barton Seagrave with Warkton, to be Vicar of Long Buckby with Watford, Peterborough diocese.

The Rev Christopher Gower, formerly Priest-in-charge, Ylewsley: to be Rector, united benefice of St Marylebone w Holy Trinity, St. Marylebone (London).

The Rev Michael Hills, Assistant Curate, St Nicholas, Hull: to be Vicar, St John the Baptist, Newington w St Mary and St Peter. Dairycoates (York).

The Rev Andrew James Wadsworth, Vicar in the Honiton Team. Exeter, to be Vicur of Bulkington with Shilton and Aristy, Coventry diocese.

Rot is stopped at historic Civil War mansion

An end is in sight to years of decay at Poltimore House, reports Marcus Binney

AN HISTORIC Devon mansion, where the treaty ending the Civil War was signed in 1646, is to be rescued from years of vandalism and neglect.

Planners have watched helplessly as the Tudor ceilings, early Georgian plaster work and Adam-style decoration of Politimore House, near Exeter, have crumbled and rotted. Under company law. the property fell forefeit to the Crown when the owners, Trolleycraft Ltd., failed to send in an annual return.

Though water was pouring through the roof, planners were unable to use their order on the Grade II * listed building as such notices cannot be served on the Crown Commissioners. Alan Payne. of East Devon District Council, said: "I was regularly being approached by people ready and willing to restore the house.

Though the Crown Commissioners had expressed willingness to hand over the property to a suitable restoring purchaser, stalemate arose because the Skipton Building Society had a charge on the property esti-mated at £1 million resulting from a £500,000 mortgage on which no interest had ever been paid. As the house rotted, the chances of the being recovered looked ever more distant. This month, however, the Buildings at Risk Trust, a charity specialising in the

Mr A.M. Allen, former chair-

man, UKAEA, 72: Mr Gordon

Banks, footballer, 59; Profes-

sor Sir Roy Calne, FRS, sur-

geon, 66; Mr Anthony Cripps, QC, 83; Mr Geraint Talfan Davies, Controller, BBC

Wales, 53: Mr Bo Diddley.

guitarist and singer, 68; Gen-

eral Sir David Fraser, 76: the

Hon Sir Archibald Hamilton.

MP. 55: Lord Harvington, 89:

Sir John Houghton, former

chief executive, Meteorologi-

cal Office, 65; Lord Howick of

Glendale, 59; Professor Dame

Rosalinde Hurley, microbiologist. 67; Mr Timothy Mo.



The splendour of the lounge hall during the 1920s

Birthdays today

Alan Payne surveys the result of vandalism at Politimore House. English Heritage estimates have put the cost of restoration at £1.8 million rescue of derelict properties, ing of any council in Britain. We will now be looking at all uaded the Skipton Building Society to relinquish its

return for a payment of £60,000. The society is likely pursue the directors of Trolleycraft for further funds.

writer. 46: the Right Rev Peter

Nott, Bishop of Norwich, 63;

Lady Oppenheimer, theolo-

gian, 70; Mrs Gwen Randall,

Head, Framlingham College,

46; Sir Albert Robinson, 81; Professor A.H.R. Rowe, for-

mer Dean, Dental Studies, United Medical and Dental

Schools of Guy's and St Thom-

as' Hospitals, 71; Professor

Robert Shackleton, FRS, geol-

ogist, 87; the Duke of Somer

set. 44: Lord Terrington, 81;

Sir David Willcocks, former

Director, Royal College of Music, 77; Mr Clifford Wil-

liams, theatrical director, 70.

charge on the property

is within earshot of the M5 motorway, the setting is very attractive and the location outside Exeter first-class."

Mr Payne added: "With the help of English Heritage we have spent £50,000 on emergency repairs, propping ap ceilings to prevent their collapse. Vandalism was a severe problem but now the house has close neighbours

with very large dogs and the police keep a constant watch." Before that the house had been regularly looted and the floor of the saloon had been ripped out by New Age travellers for firewood. After the theft of all the banisters of the main staircase, vainable fix-

Florence Mildred Evans, of

Stoke, near Nantwich, Chesh-

ire, left £622,221 net.
She left £1,000 each to RSPCA.
NSPCC Cancer Research Campaign.
St Cavid's Church, Calcenbolt, the
Salvation Army RNIB and St Mary's
Church, Acton, Nannwich.

Alfred Bernard Lacey, of Wragby, Lincoln, left £579,285

Philippa Jane Beatrice Gur-

ney, of North Runcton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, left £1,113,490

Latest wills

Kit Martin, who has made

a speciality of converting large, derelict country houses

for multiple residential use, said: "Politimore would con-

vert very well into a number

of self-contained homes creat-

ed in different parts of the house. Though the mansion

tures including Queen Anne fireplaces had been removed ssible uses, including a for safekeeping. conference or trading centr

Poltimore's decline, like that of many large country tioning in the Second World War. After use as a convalescent home for American airmen it became a nursing home and then an annexe of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, closing in the 1970s.
The oldest parts of the house date to the early 1500s. At Poltimore, Sir Thomas

defeated Charles I at the Battle of Naseby, negotiated and signed the Treaty of Exeter which effectively ended the Civil War. In 1831 Sir George Bampfylde was creat-ed the 1st Lord Poltimore.

The house has a handsome stucco Georgian front overlooking parkland. Behind is a gabled 17th-century wing enwork dating from four centuries. English Heritage estimates have put the cost of restoration at £1.8 million.



The garden and scaffolding are testimony to years of neglect and a far cry from the scene in 1927, below.



Nature notes

As the lakes freeze over, many. ducks and other water birds go down to the sea. Great crested grebes find quiet estuaries in which to feed, and even kinglishers will head for the coast in severe weather. Waxwings are continuing to come in from the Continent, and a flock of 200 was seen in Edinburgh last week, but there is no sign yet of an invasion on the scale of last year's. Great grey shrikes have been reported in a number of places: these hook-billed winter visitors will sometimes impale beetles and other prey on thorns as a food store. Water plants combat the

frost in different ways. Water lilies survive as fat underground stems, while starworts and duckweed sink down under the ice to warmer water. Some frogs hibernate in the mud at the bottom of a pond, breathing lightly through their skin. Hedgehogs sleep in holes lined with moss and leaves, sometimes using an old wasps' nest in the ground: However, they may wake up if the winter turns milder, and then need to feed on slugs and snails. Small tortoiseshell butterflies sleep in shadowy corners in sheds: the dark underside of their wings makes them hard to see. DJM

LEGAL NOTICES

Marriage

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 28, at Lea Priory, of Mr Peter Joander younger son of Mr and Mrs R.N. Joarder, of Woodford Wells, Esser Joarder, of Woodford Wells, Esser, and Miss Clare Stokes, only. daughter of Mr and Mrs BM. Stokes, of Woodford Green, Esser. The bride, who was given in marriage by her lather, was attended by Mrs Anita Bourne, Mr Michael Heales, Mr Chris Ellis, Mr Gavin Flynn, Mr Panit Alexander, Mr Jason Dawes and Lieutenant Andrew Stacev. RN ieutenant Andrew Stacey, RNL Mr Clive Bird was best man. The reception was held at Leer

University news

spent in the Orient.

Priory and the honeymoon will be

Alan Rector, at present Reader in Medical Informatics at the univer-sity, to be Professor of Medical ormatics in the Department of Computer Science from January I.

Martin J Humphries, has been granted the title of Professor of Biochemistry in the School of Biological Sciences from December 1, 1996, during the continuance. of his appointment as Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow, Will Hutton, Editor of The Observer newspaper, to be Visiting Professor of Economics in the Manchester Business School for three years from November I.

Honorary professors

C B Jones, Director, Applications Division at Harlequin Lad and former Professor of Computing Science at the university, to be Honorary Professor of Computer Science for three years December I, 1996.

Nathan Efron, Professor of Clinial Optometry in the Department of Optometry and Vision Studies, UMIST, to be Honorary Professor from December I, 1996.

06. 63.

Stuart John Lewis, Director of Engineering at British Acrospace, Warton, to be Honorary Visiting Professor of Principles of Engineering Design (Aerospace Division) in the Manchester School of Engineering for five years from October 1, 1996.

Glenn William Birchby, AIMS Design Manager at GEC Plessey emiconductors, Oldham, to be Honorary: Visiting Professor of Principles of Engineering Design (Electrical Division) in the rianchester School of Engi for five years from October 1, 1996 Colin Shaw, Visiting Fellow in the European Institute for the Media and previously Honorary Lecturer in the School of Education, to be Honorary Visiting Professor in the School of Education for three years from November 1, 1996.

and former manager of PREST's involvement in UK Technology Foresight Programme, to be Honorary Visiting Professor in PREST for three years from November 1, 1996.

Richard V. Adabi. Reader and Director of Graduate Studies In the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences, UMIST, to be Honorary Reader in Ophthalmolony for three years from December

Charles R M Hay, Consultant Haematologist and Director of the Manchester Haemophilia Comprehensive Care Centre at Manchester Royal Infirmary and former Senior Lecturer in Haematology at the University of Liverpool, to be Honorary Senior Lecturer in Medicine for three years from November 1, 1996.

TRADE: 0171 481 1982

FAX: 0171 481 9313

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures for ever. So let them say who were redested by the Lord, Psalm 107:1,2

BIRTHS

JOHNSON - On 20th December in Hereford County Hospital, to Anne Marie (new Millar) and Paul Michael, a daughter, Victoria Natalla Elizabeth.

LOYD - On December 21st, 1996, to Tazz and James, a sqs. (William George).

Assisted - Houser Scientill, saddenly and peacefully at house on Christone mounting. Beloved wife of Harley, much loved mother of Myles and Jane. Genetty missed by her grandchildren and Rigal and Antia. Francis points, Family flowers only. Dentitions if decision Constitutions if Genetic Conference on the Conference of Conference on the Conference of Conference of Conference of Conference on Conference on Conference on Conference on Conference of Conference on Conference on

Bordon, GU35 9AR.

RACSICH - Peacefully in Glasgow after a long filmese on 24th December 1996. Doctor Faul Becaich beloved husband of Anna and father of Faul and Alan. Francal Service at Clyde Bank Crematorium (North Dalnottar) on Friday 3rd january 1997 at 130 pm. No flowers please.

flowers please.

BASSHAW - On December
20th Col. Frank Readdock
inte BAMC. Father of David,
gamdiather of Jeratry, Anna,
Sophie and Timothy. Getat
gamdiather of Edward and
Beatle. Funeral private, but
donations if wished to
Cancer Research col R partie.
Leves Road, Cross in Hand,
Hestalded, Supper.

BALLANTINE - Dulcie (née BALLARTHE - Duicis (née Hollindale) of Leigh, New Zealand, formerley of Estford, Notts, on Friday 27th December, Dearly loved wife of Doctor Bill

wife of Doctor Bill Ballantine and lewing mother of Michael and May, Doctor of Doctor of Peter (Thomas) and mother of Reisa, Christine, Pani, Peter, Richard and Robert, Pamily Ruseral, Lewisham Chematorium at 11 am, 3m January, Docations to British Manuary, Docations to British

CANTON - Christopher Peter on December 23rd 1996, with strength and counse, aged 57. Dearly loved husband of Margaret father of James and Helsa Good friend to us all, Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service at Emmanued ULC. Transpington. Street, Cambridge at 11.30 am Friday January 3rd. Donations if desired to Macmillan Nunes cto Arthurknik House, 351. Mill Reed, CSI 3DF.

bowes - Peter Donald suddenly and pencefully in Cambridge surrounded by his family on 27th December, Husband of Smoon, father of Louise, grandfather of Sen, Giyer, Sophy and Seath, Funeral private. Details of Memorial Service to be annothiced lines.

ANAM - Annabel Rose (Bel) - Ade Tronch on 24th December 1996, used 61. She died after a long and brave struggle against cance, her postive attinde an inspiration to all her family and riends. Faneral on Tuesday 7th jan 1997 at 12.15. St Anne's Church. Kew Green. No flowers, but denstions may be made to Royal Marsden Hospital Chadry of TH Saunders tel: 0181 876 4673.

QALBRAITH - Elizabeth Marjorle Suchanan (née Smith) on 24th December 1996, peacefully at home, aged 89 years. Wife of the late Alec Galbraith and widow of Fannuls AE Welby, Private cremation, Thanksgiving Service at Fortland Church, Troch on Tuesday 31st December at 12 noon, Family flowers only.

UNNER - Harold (Dick). CUMMER - Harold (Dick), Peacefully at home on December 23rd, lowed and loving Husband of Joyce. Year special father of Roser, Fam and Richard and dear friend of daughters-in-law Michele and John. Very proud Grandfather of Nikki, Natalie, Andrew, Eichard, Kate and Robert Funeral at Chiliteras Crematorium, Ameraham, Thursday January 2nd at 1.30pm. Ramily Howers only please. Donations if desired to Royal Star and Garter Home. Richmond, Surrey.

Sail. On Christmas Day 1996, John, peacefully at home, Upon Prins, Easter. After a long illness aged 73 years. The sail of John Rill Electric Easter Limited, Several grandfather. Forever in our bearts. Several section of the bearts. Several section of the bearts. Several section in the beart in the several section in the beart in the several section in the beart in the several section in the section in the several section in the se

in The John Badeliffe Hospital, Onford, on 22 December. Much laved Australia of Dures and Australia of Dures and Australia of Dures and Australia of University College Oriond, for 32 years. Funcant Service in University College at 11.30 am on Saturday 4 haussy, followed by Fedute Cremation. No flowers, but donations, if desired, to the Assistant Secregary Royal Chelses Hospital, London SW3 482.

OTTEWELL - Harold died peacofully in Sefton Park Nursing Home on Sunday December 22nd 1996 aged 34. Funeral Service at Bandon Hill Cemetary on Thursday January 23d at 1pm. Enquiries to I.B. Shakespeare Ltd., (0181) 688-1447.

Collin Fesonfully on 24th December in London after a short illness. Widow of George and much loved nother of Charles and Margaret and grandmother. Enquires to J. Bardort & Some on (0191) 273-9292.

Some on (0191) 273-9292.

SMAW - Daphne Laura Ussula on 20th December peterfully in Devises, widow of Lt Communder E.T. Saw, and much loved mother of Caroline Dalrympie, grandmother of Jose, The and Mick, and greatprendmother of Megan, Julia and Jack. Tanakegiving Service on Jamestry 3nt at 3pm at Spinat Science on Devises, Strange, Strange, Electrone, Strange, Strange, Strange, Electrone, Strange, Strange, Electrone, Strange, Strange, Strange, Strange, Electrone, Strange, Strange, Strange, Strange, Strange, Strange, Electrone, Strange, S

Spm at St John's Davine.

STRANDS:- Ejian, passed away on December 20th 1996, aged 87. Will be sadly missed by son Bermand, daughter-in-law Marcha, and gazathahhhum alway, Reyan and Elicen. Regains State at 10.00am on Tuesday December 31 at St Joseph's Church Pennuth, Schlowed by burial at Penanth Canotesy.

Enquiries to JR Shahaspane Leb 0181 688 1447.

Led 0181 688 1447.

***AIMIC ALTHUR - Curlius Novi. Priest, died es Caristana Day at 8; john's Home, Oxford aged 92 years. Funeral Service at The Chapel, All Saints Cusvent, 8; Eary's Rend, Oxford on Taesday 7th juneary at 12 noon. Refreshments will be served at 8; john's Home for the larvice for 5; john's Home may be sent of AX Baker a Soute, Penneral Directors, 5 Park Road, Farlington, Oxon. SN7 787.

THE NEW YEAR PERIOD

Birth, Marriage & Death Notices. For notices to appear on Wednesday January 1st and Thursday January 2nd the deadline or Tuesday December 31st at 12 noon. Wednesday January 1st Office Clused. Normal hours Thursday January 2nd. £ 0171 680 6880

Deadlines & Opening Threes

net.

She left \$5,000 to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research and to All Saints Church. North Runcton; and £2,000 to the National Trust. Great crested grebe PERSONAL COLUMN

MEMORIAL SERVICES Ashes NOMG - Arriver F. A
Memorial Service celebratus his life and rimes, will be held in Boreham wood,
Hertfordshire, on Tanding 25th January 1997. For hortes details with to Leth Stephens, Hertmere Sorveys Council, Civic Offices, Bistres Way, Borehamwood, Herta, WOG 1WA or fax on 0181 207 7482.

IN MEMORIAM -

SMIRE - Sir Alexander, But. GCR, KCB, Admins of the Phote, 190ch anniversary of his death, 29th December 1896, Sixty years in The Royal New, A life of unany and inalligence spent in the service of his country, EA. Courtemanche USA BIRTHDAYS

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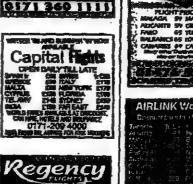
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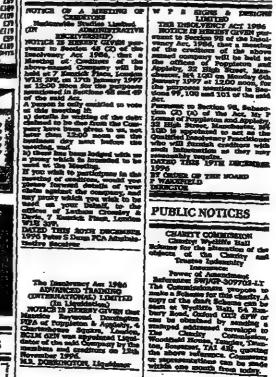
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are me public; to confirmation and should be received

by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

n a life devoted to the construction industry. Robert Douglas founded and developed a firm that built factories for wartime aircraft production; airfields for American bombers; steelworks in the immediate postwar period; sections of Britain's motorway network in the 1950s and 1960s and the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in the 1970s. From small beginnings he created a construction company which had a reputation at home and abroad.

10r

His father died early in Robert McCailum Douglas's life and his doughty Presbyterian mother brought up a family of four children in a farming community. He served in the First World War in the Highland Light Infantry and the Cameronian Regiment. Wounded in France, he was invalided home to Scotland before returning to the Western Front in the last months of the war.

When it was over he had two years' legal training with a Dumfries solicitor. In 1921, a Scotiish contractor. Andrew Blair, wished to establish a civil engineering contracting company in Birmingham-and was seeking a company secretary. Douglas was appointed to this post and helped Blair to set up and run his business. It was soon discovered that he had an aptitude for civil engineering estimating and since Blair, Lyle & Co was a small undertaking, he became

involved in site supervision.

When Blair fell ill, Douglas left the business and founded a public works company during the depths of a severe recession. From an initial capital of £3,000, the business developed into a group of more than 30 companies with operations throughout the UK and

Douglas was one of the first to recognise that the future of the construction industry 'lay in mechanisation, and Robert M. Douglas (Contractors) always invested in construction plant on a scale commarable to



that of much larger firms. As the Second World War loomed, the company undertook the civil engineering work for an aircraft "shadow" factory (a number of which were set up at the insistence of Lord Beaverbrook to maximise aircraft production for war needs) for the Austin Motor Company at Longbridge, Birmingham, and subsequently for the Nuffield organisation at Cas-

Later in the war, with American strategic bomber forces operating from Britain Douglas's firm completed conairfields for the USAAF in the East Midlands at very short notice. Because of the breakneck speed at which this work had to be done, many of these began without a single drawing, contract clause, or even a specification: but Robert Douglas was known to be a contractor of such integrity that the Government could

firm without the fear of being cheated.

In the years of the construction boom after the Second World War, the company built two timplate works in South Wales at Trostre and Velindre,

start spending money with his

Europe at the time. Those years also saw the beginning of the motorway programme and Douglas's firm completed sections of the Mi, M4, M40, M42, M50 and M54.

In 1953 the company was floated and Robert Douglas used his capital, derived from the flotation, to purchase the Dunstall estate, near Burton upon Trent, which belonged to the Hardy family at that time. He assumed the role of village squire and carried out major alterations to the various properties in Dunstall for the benefit of the people living there.

re. n. 1956 he was appointed OBE in recognition of his contribution to the control of the construction industry during the war years, through his membership of the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works Midland Regional Joint Advisory Committee. In 1976 he was knighted for services to export following the award to Rapid Metal Developments, a company in the Douglas Group, of the Queen's Award for Industry for Export, and the completion of the National Exhibition Centre in that year. The company also built the Birmingham Arena, the International Convention Centre, and the Birmingham Symphony Hall.

Douglas established construction companies overseas: in the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and subsidiaries of the construction equipment division in Australia, New Zealand, France, Spain, Ireland, and more recently, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, and Taiwan.

Thailand, Korea, and Taiwan. He became president of the Staffordshire Agricultural Society in 1979 and his ability as a contractor was particularly useful to it when its main exhibition hall burnt down in the year of his presidency. Even though he was 80, he was at the showground by 7am the following day to instruct on clearance operations and to advise on its speedy reconstruction.

He was awarded an honorary doctorate of science by the University of Aston in Birmingham in 1977. The company had, for many years, been closely associated with the university, providing onthe-job training for civil engineering and other students. Douglas was chairman of Burton Graduate Medical Centre from 1969 to 1981, overseeing the fundraising necessary for its completion in 1972. He also provided finance to help the centre to buy computerised equipment.

The company he founded became known as the Douglas Group and grew worldwide, surviving the cycles of boom and recession so characteristic of the vulnerable construction industry. In October 1991, a merger was arranged with the Tilbury Group and Douglas became president of the new combined organisation.

combined organisation.
In 1927 he married Millicent
Irene Tomkys Morgan. She
died in 1980; he is survived by

INFANTA MARÍA CRISTINA DE BORBÓN Y BATTENBERG

The Infanta Maria Cristina de Borbón y Battenberg died in Madrid on December 23 aged 85. She was born on December 12, 1911.

A WOMAN richly endowed with poise of bearing, with handsome features and an imperious build, the Infanta Maria Cristina de Borbón y Battenberg was a living bridge to another, older age. Yet she was blessed with a sunny disposition which enabled her to surmount the misfortunes which overtook her family in the early part of her life, and she was able to adapt to family life in another country, once it became clear that life for her and her family would no longer be tenable in her own.

The great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria, she was the fourth issue of King Alfonso XIII of Spain and Queen Victoria Eugenia. The aunt of the present Spanish King, Juan Carlos, she was the younger sister of his father, Don Juan, Count of Barcelona, a man who was never to sit on the throne to which he was

Tumultuous political events in Spain early in the life of the young Infanta sent her, along with the rest of her family, into exile in Italy. The proclamation of the Second Spanish Republic on April 14, 1931, led her father. King Alfonso, to believe that a departure from his kingdom was the most prudent course to take for the safety of his family.

Sections within the Republican alliance, fuelled by such publications as Alfonso XIII Unmasked, by Vicente Blasco Ibáhez, had made of him a bogeyman for what was regarded by his political enemies as a corrupt system, and the King was anxious to avoid an outbreak of bloodshed

among his subjects.

Aged only 20, Maria Cristina began life afresh in a new, but not inhospitable, land. She was a considerable beauty, and seldom failed to cause a stir at social gatherings with her fair hair, stylishly worn, her limpid blue eyes, and her vivacious conversation. Nine years later, at 29, she married Enrique Eugenio Marone Cinzano, the Count of Marone, whose family owned the Cinzano distilleries.



Family continued to live in Rome, the Infanta moved to her matrimonial home in Turin. The marriage, always comfortable, was to last for 28 years. In 1968, the Count succumbed to an inflammation of some serious injuries he had sustained while on safari in Mozambique some years earlier.

Four daughters were, however, born to the couple, and Maria Cristina always took pride in the fact that they were equally at home in Italy and in Spain. Her pride, of course, always lay firmly embedded in her limitless discretion. It was under her influence, for example, that her husband refused the title of "Duke", offered to him by the Italian

Royal Household, on the ground that the title of "Count" was more "circumspect". In such matters she was seldom wrong.

Maria Cristina devoted her life to a variety of charitable works, and she was particularly tireless in her contributions to associations for the support of cancer research. Two days before Christmas, however, on the occasion of the birthday of the Countess of Barcelona — her brother Don Juan's wife — she died in Madrid of a heart attack, but was buried at her husband's family crypt in Turin, with the entire Spanish Royal Family in attendance.

In attendance.

She is survived by her four

24 hours.

I phone number.

0345 90 90 90

The Samaritans

it with you

FRANÇOIS NECKAR

François Neckar, conturier, died on December 6 aged 92. He was born on November 24, 1904.

FOR MORE than 30 years François Neckar distinguished himself as a couturier and fashion designer in Sloane Street. His client list, it was said, read like the pages of Debrett. He was one of the last of the grand couturiers from the world of French haute couture. Almost certainly he was the only one who could design, cut, make and finish any of the garments created for his clientele.

This creative flair and techrical talent stemmed from his early grounding in the great French fashion houses whose demands for the highest level of quality nurtured the perfectionist spirit of the François Neckar salon.

Born in a remote village in southern Bohemia, François Neckar was apprenticed in the neighbouring town of Straz na Nezarka in an uncle's tailoring business. From there he went on to work in Prague. In 1928 he moved in Paris

he went on to work in Prague.
In 1928 he moved to Paris
where the reputation of Czech
tailors was highly prized.
Neckar's flair for design and
his exceptional practical ability made him much sought
after in the flourishing Paris
couture houses of that time.
He worked for several

houses including Creed and

Rochas until 1935, when Madame Schiaparelli offered him the position of cutter in her London salon. He accepted this assignment and worked successfully for some of the most internationally exotic names among Schiapareili's clientele. His calm professionalism was in sharp contrast to that of many of the film industry and society glitterati whom he dressed. He later worked at Eva Lutyen's Salon

and at Strassners in Grosve-

prodigious output from his own punishing work schedule. He was greatly assisted in the business by his wife, who, among many other tasks she took on, coped with the administrative duties which were not his favourite.

Neckar in Sloane Street was

established in 1950. The reputation of Neckar's quiet

genius spread rapidly. He

maintained a relatively small

workmoom but generated a

his favourite.
The house of Neckar ac-

quired an enviable clientele. His skill and talent was in introducing his own Individuality while interpreting the Paris fashions which he loved. He could enhance and flatter any client with his classical approach to design.

His interest in the world of fashion never waned though in latter years he spent more time in organising his beautiful garden at his home in Ruislip. He leaves his widow, Heloise, two sons and two daughters.



Neckar (seated) with Elsa Schiaparelli and members of the family

COST OF CATTLE DISEASE

£224,000 COMPENSATION
TO FARMERS

OVER 30,000 ANIMALS
SLAUGHTERED

ON T

Decent

Since the present severe visitation of foot-andmouth disease began to afflict the English
countryside in the middle of October more
than 30,000 head of live-stock have been
slaughtered, and the compensation payable
by the Ministry of Agriculture to farmers for
their losses so far amounts to about £224,000.
But the policy of relentlessly stamping out the
disease wherever it appears has prevented an
infection of a particularly virulent type from
running riot among the country's livestock,
and it now appears reasonable to hope that the
worst of the scourge is past. Much will depend
on a continuance of the admirable cooperation of farmers in promptly notifying any
suspected cases. The present series of outbreaks began in Norfolk on October 16, and
since then 153 have occurred. Excepting small
outbreaks in Northumberland and Cheshire,
the disease has been substantially confined to
the eastern and southern counties. An area of
infection at Devizes is now causing some
conceren, but apart from this there are signs

ON THIS DAY

December 30, 1937

The burning carcasses of slaughtered cattle lighting up the night sky of East Anglia was a sight that neither their former owners nor passers-by were likely ever to forget

that the incidence of the disease is abating. Up to date there have been slaughtered 8.651 cattle, 15.144 sheep, and 6.537 pigs. Serious as the outbreak is it does not compare with the experience of 1923, when the animals slaughtered included 69.256 cattle, 26.170 sheep, and 33.304 pigs and the compensation paid to farmers amounted to £1.898.211. The individual farmer who sees the carcasses of his slaughtered cattle going up in smoke may find it hard to realize that the policy of slaughter and compensation is best, but in the light of existing knowledge this undoubtedly is so. The drastic methods adopted here keep the bulk of the country's livestock free from

infection. In Continental countries where footand-mouth disease is now raging, and where animals are not slaughtered, the separate outbreaks are numbered not in hundreds but in scores of thousands and the economic loss to those countries is incalculable. In France, for instance, there were about 90,000 outbreaks between July and the middle of November, and no compensation is payable there to the larmer who suffers loss through the death or the inevitable decline in value of stock affected. The expert advisers of the Minister of Agriculture believe that there is overwhelming evidence that foot-and-mouth disease was introduced here in the autunin from the Continent by migratory birds, principally starlings. The outbreaks began when the mass migrations were at their height, and the type of infection, the areas affected, and the way in which the disease spread leave little doubt that it was carried by hirds. When the first outbreaks were confirmed in Norfolk farmers spoke of having seen their fields infested a few days before by starlings. The recent spread of the infection to Wiltshire is believed to be due to migratory birds having resorted to animal feeding troughs. The theory that the disease is imported by birds is now being made the

Josh in 150

NEWS

Saudis leak murder case evidence

■ Saudi newspapers revealed apparently damning evidence against two British nurses accused of murdering a hospital colleague, including separate confessions and graphic details of how they allegedly tried to cover up their part in the killing.

Western diplomats were suprised at what they describe as the unprecedented leaks in the case against Lucille McLaughlan and Deborah Parry, which they believe must have been sanctioned by the authorities in an effort to defend Saudi Arabia's much criticised legal system...

Couple die trying to rescue dog

A couple died after falling through ice in an Essex country park as they tried to save their labrador. Another man who went to their aid also became trapped and had to be rescued by a park ranger. The dog struggled free on its own.........Page 1

Solicitors sued

Sixty-five solicitors' firms are A businessman who committed being sued over mortgage losses in an action that could change the system whereby one lawyer acts for both borrower and lender in conveyancing deals......... Page 1 Abortion campaign

A senior Labour spokesman says that the party's MPs will not yield to blackmail by anti-abortion campaigners who are threaten-

ing to field up to 50 candidates in Downey's delay The report on the Commons "cash for questions" inquiry may not be published until a few

weeks before the election. Sir

Gordon Downey has not yet in-

terviewed any of the main

witnesses...

Joking apart Alan Ayekbourn and Scarborough have fallen out after a 40year relationship...

Bombing fears

Changes to the Provisional IRA's army council have added to fears that a mainland bombing campaign is imminent. Security and intelligence officials were surprised that there was no attack before Christmas

Royal exhibition

An Oriental manuscript presented to George III in 1797 is to go on public display for the first time in the Queen's Gallery at Bucking-

Double death

suicide after burning down his house may have incinerated his wife's body. Derek Levon, whose wife was terminally ill, shot himself in front of policemen who tried to persuade him not to kill himself. The house was destroyed nine hours earlier Page 6

'Pot' ban stays

President Clinton has approved a plan to threaten doctors with prosecution if they prescribe marijuana for seriously ill patients in Arizona and California. Both states back such use of the

Civil peace

The longest-running civil war in the Western hemisphere came to a halt when Guatemala's leftwing guerrilla leaders signed an accord for a "firm and lasting peace" with President ArzûPage 7

Moscow retreat

Two years after Moscow embarked on its bloodiest and most disastrous military campaign in half a century, the last Russian combat troops withdrew from Chechnya, in effect ceding control of the republic to the rebel Government.

Hebron pledge

Binjamin Netanyahu insisted that israel would never pull out of Hebron as some of his ministers resisted plans to redeploy the ___Page 5 troops there ___

Three-way chess hits the boards

...Page 2

Snowbound in Scotland with two companions and only a chess set for amusement, Khia Rasmussin set about inventing a version of the game that could be played by three. Eleven years later, he has come up with a board with 96 squares. pieces in black, white and red, and a game that is said to be more exciting and less likely to end in stalemate Page 3



A cargo ship battles through the ice on Norderelbe near Hamburg, where heavy frost brought shipping almost to a standstill

BUSINESS Jobe: Britain's job prospects stand

at a seven-year high, according to employment forecasts......Page 36 Holidaya: The TUC believes that six million workers will lose holidays if Britain opts out of Europe's 48-hour week.

Good to talk: BT is to spend tens of millions of pounds tackling the alleged inability of British people to hold proper conversations. The campaign is likely to be criticised by customers arguing that the money would be better used cutting the cost of telephone calls.. Page 36 Making a date: Mercury Commun-

ications could face an £80 million bill to update its computers for the new millennium, as a result of its rush to enter the market in the Page 36

es Road and Wester condition

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Happy New Year: Next year marks the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's golden wedding, the Tate Gallery's centenary, the 700th anniversary of William Wallace's de-

feat of the English at Stirling Bridge and 50 years of indepen-...Page 36 dence for India and Pakistan. Jack Lonsdale highlights the arrivals, departures and significant events of the year.

Twists and turns: A chance encounter with a 19th-century treatise on

headaches led Oliver Sacks to draw surprising conclusions Page 10 Siow-witted: Even a flash of inspiration moves through the brain at tortoise speed, Danish researchers have discovered.

Monster revives: She wrote it 180 years ago, yet modern science has resurrected Mary Shelley's Frankenstein in a way she could never have anticipated. .. Page 12

Money no object: The world's most

expensive building is set to open in Tokyo next month, a high-tech marvel of architecture with a El billion pricetag... Page 12 Top billing: Ash's biggest headline gig to date - and their first since returning from their lengthy Amer-

ican sojourn — thrills fans in Play house: If These Walls Could Speak looks at buildings that have

a special artistic resonance. The series begins with Benedict Nightingale's fond memories of the Old .Page 13

IN THE TIMES

THEATRE GHOSTS Day Two of our series, If These Walls Could Speak, journeys to Drottningholm

EAW David Pannick, QC, on a year when many of the rich and powerful stumbled and fell

Cricket: Alec Stewart (101-not out) and Graham Thorpe (50 not out) carried England to 195 for three in their second innings of the second Test against Zimbabwe Page 19 Football: A John Barnes goal

brought Liverpool victory over

Southampton to go five points clear

of Manchester United at the top of the PremiershipPage 21 Rugby union: The postponement of three matches in the Courage Clubs Championship first division, including Francois Pienaar's debut

for Saracens, has added to fixture . Page 26 Sailing: The BT Global Challenge fleet was expected to encounter stormy weather from the tail end of

Hurricane Fergus, as it headed for

New Zealand. Athietics: Jon Brown knotched up another success with a three-secand victory over Daniel Romen in the Bupa Co Durham cross country championship Page 24

that for iron in the soul Pete Sampras was the supreme sporting figure of 1996 Page 28 Placing: Lingfield Park stages the only meeting today......Page 31

Creaming glory: David Miller says

8, 10, 20, 27, 31, 39. Bonus: 30. Eight people shared the jackpot, winning El.225.265 each: 20 won El25.668 for five numbers plus the bonus; 1,373 won £1,372 for five numbers; 70,851 won £58 for four balls.

Preview: The BBC has tucked away a fine biography of Americani soldier president in Eisenhow (BBC2, 10.40am). Review: Wilkies Collins's Moonstone loses its

A Christmas mystery

The United States and the wider world must hope that history weighs heavily on the President's mind. Pour years of partisan gridlock and government by Gallup would do little for public Page 15 policy...

Charles and Church

Given the formidable force Prince Charles has offered to other causes, the Church of England, which requires rather more love from rather more quarters than St James's Palace, can only benefit from a more involved Prince...... Page 15

A good shelf-life

Readers still long for novels such as: those that erupted among their predecessors 150 years ago Page 15

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

All religious leadership depends an ik the spirituality of the leader. Commerce gregations are looking for a person al faith to strengthen their own George Carey's objective is to be any PAUL BARKER

The Prime Minister is right to be concerned about what has been going on in care homes and in social services departments. Bui charities are just as likely as social. workers to take a hard line of interracial adoptions Page 14

Sir Robert Douglas, construction company president Infanta Maria de Borbon y Battenberg, daughten of Alfonso XIII of Spain: François Necker, countrier

Roman Catholic schools; Sir Linkvic Kennedy on the pursuit of justice; gun debate; compensation.

With Mr. Yeltsin regaining strength, he and President Chillon will find no better opportunity for ond terms than making further deep reductions in nuclear arms -The New York Times

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Overcast

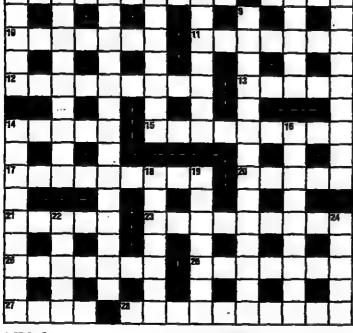
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HAVARE Engany maning

State of the state

Pain

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,363



ACROSS

- I Urchin throws duffer into river
- 6 Obstruction, say, for the alliance 10 Splendid person, but almost crazy
- 11 Thoroughly discuss notious gases encountered on the way (7).
- 12 Return badly behaved mule to men (9). 13 Book revealing human error (5).
- 14 Returned work, including stolen picture (5). 15 Salesman's description of Steven-
- son or his donkey (9). 17 South American painting's first completed for hanging (9).
- 20 Materially that's, oddly, always new (5).
- 21 Keeps omitting to take in this southern town (5). 23 Painting by Wright of Derby,

BERLOUP

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,362 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

CTIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED. 1996. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in ricetronic and all other decreative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd. PO Sex 495. Virginia Street London E I 93N. telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kitting Road, Prescot, Mercyside, L34 9H%, telephone 0151-546 2000 Monday, Documber 39, 1996. Registered as a newspaper at the Post

- 25 Dependable way to prevent leaks
- 26 Bijoux originally usable, some bow. as trinkets (7).
- 27 Bond's all right in the old environment (4). 28 Intimidated bishop overcome after argument (10).

- 1 Take a look around behold king, for a start (5),
- 2 Disheartened girl, loving elegant (9).
- Decide to change denims, lipstick on?(4,2,4,4). Passionate female takes opening
- without hesitation (7). 5 Sloth finds tree, settling in in time
- 7 Stars quietly leaving, initially, for lake (5)
- 8 Animal given a month on a new vessel (9).
- 9 Alter attitude and revise original composition (6,4,4). 14 Successful candidates going
- through will they stop at nothing? (7-2). 16 Aunt Delia's ordered carriage (9). 18 He may make the Channel and
- land in an emergency (7). 19 A bold stroke for one on the fiddle
- 22 Crude dwelling in Holyhead consumed by fire (5). 24 One is stirred up to make dye (5).
 - Times Two crossword, page 36

General: In England and Wales it will feel very cold in the freeh or strong northeast winds. More then inch of snow

real very cold in the treat or strong northeast winds. More then inch of snow is lively in some places the South East. Elsewhere, the sleet or snow showers are expected only to give small amounts, it will be meinly cloudy. Eastern Scotland will be cloudy with wirtry showers, mainly over the Borders. Further west and in Northern Instand, mainly dry with some sunshine.

It contents. See Enveloped E. Annelles. London, SE England, E Anglie: Snow showers, some moderate laits. Strong northeast wind. Very cold. Max 1C to 2C (34F to 36F).

IC to 2C (34F to 30F).

□ Cont S, SW England, Middender, Snow showers, mainly light falls, sleety in places. Strong northeast wind. Very cold. Max 1C to 3C (34F to 37F).

□ E England, Cent N, NE England,

Borders: Mainly light snow showers, steaty in places. Fresh northeast wind. Very cold. Max 1C to 3C (34F to 37F). Charmel Isles, Wates, NW England, Lakes, lobb: Mainly light snow showers, then meinly dry and bright, surnly Intervals. Brisk northeast wind. Cold. Max 26 to 4C (36F to 39F). Cold. Mex 2C to 4C (35F to 39F).

E'burgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Ortmey, Shetland: Methly dry, sunny periods. Light northerly winds. Cold. Mex 3C (37F).

SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cunt. Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Dry, sunny periods. Light northerly winds. Cold. Mex 4C (39F).

Outlook Cold easierly winds bringing snow showers to many areas. Bright in shaltered west.

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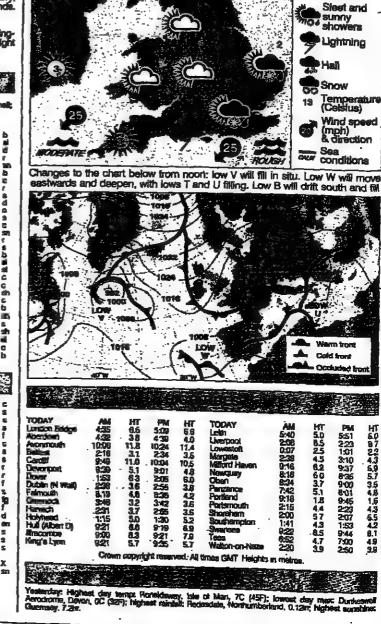
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azel wilkah

PAGE 30

MONDAY DECEMBER 30 1996

SURREY PAIR LEAD ENGLAND RECOVERY AND RAISE HOPES OF WIN





PAGE 28

Stewart hooks powerfully on the way to celebrating his ninth international century to leave England in a position of promise in the second Test in Harare yesterday. Photograph: Howard Burditt

Stewart runs the show

FROM SIMON WILDE IN HARARE

20,000 mg. 100 200 mg.

HARARE (fourth day of five): England, with seven secondinnings wickets in hand, are 136 runs ahead of Zimbabwe

ONE year ago there were not many people in cricket prepared to give Alec Stewart much of a future at international level. He was nearing the end of a woeful tour of South Africa, had played only bit parts in the two previous England Test series, against Australia and West Indies, and was approaching 33 years of age. He looked ready for one of the most heavily populated places in English cricket. the scrap heap.

Six months ago his future looked even more bleak. He had been duly dropped from the first home Test match of the summer with India and, for a while, was also missing from the Surrey side because his wife was seriously ill.

But just look at him now. The man who has always been last to give up on any cause yesterday dug England out of a hole in the second Test match against Zimbabwe at Harare Sports Club and, by the end of the day, had put them into a position from which they could yet pull off an unlikely win. Ten minutes before stumps he reached a minth Test century - with successive off-driven boundaries against Olonga — that leaves him the leading runscorer in Test cricket in 1996. tribute to a string of impressive scores against India, Pakistan and Zimbahwe.

That sequence might not have happened but for a strange series of events, startStewart a recall to the England side and also involved the perennial debate about whether Stewart or Russell should keep wicket for England.

Perhaps the most unexpected decision taken by England or Zimbabwe came within a week of the touring team's arrival, when it was decided that Stewart would keep wicket and bat at No 3 in the Test matches, potentially putting him under greater strain than ever before as an England player. His response has been to score 48 and 73 in Bulawayo and 19 and 101 not out here. If his first century as batsman/wicketkeeper has serious ramifications for Russell's international future, it also means that Stewart's own England place has never

looked more secure. When Stewart came to the wicket on Saturday evening England were in desperate

Thorpe completes a determined fifty

considerable amount in a lowscoring contest such as this one, by the third over of the innings they had lost Atherton, pushing at an outswinger from Streak that in better days would effortlessty have been met by the middle of his bat. It left the England captain with a meagre total of 34 runs from four Test innings in Zimba-

Stewart had only been at the crease for two overs when bad light brought an early end to a day restricted to only 52 overs, but he did not escape a stern test of character when play resumed yesterday. Streak and Brandes began the day with some incisive bowling that, in the case of Brandes, was repeated several times throughout the day. Despite the fact that he is the only bowler in the match still

ENGLAND: First Irrings 156 (G Whitel 4-18, H H Streek 4-43).

Second trains

Total (3 wkts, 93 overs, 391min) . 195

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7 (Knight 6), 2-75 (Stewart 39), 3-89 (Stewart 47).

(Stewart 39), 3-89 (Stewart 47).
BOWLING: Streak 19.5-47-1 (5 fours: 9-3-29-1, 8-1-14-0, 3-1-40); Branden 21-8-45-0 (w 1; 5 fours: 9-2-17-0, 5-1-13-0, 6-2-15-0, 1-19-0); Olonga: 7-0-31-0 (nb 1; 4 fours: 4-0-20-0, 3-0-11-0); Writinal 14-6-16-0 (1 four; 7-4-3-0, 4-1-7-0, 3-1-6-0), Streng 26-6-2-2 (2 fours: 20-5-27-2, 5-1-13-0, 1-0-4-0); G W Flower 7-2-9-0 (5-0-9-0, 2-2-0-0).

SCORING NOTES: Third day: Stumps: 17-1 (5 overs, 27min; Knight 6, Stemen

Extras (to 5; w 1, nb 1)

trouble. Having conceded a. the pick of the Zimbabwe first innings lead of 59, a attack, though it was Streak who might have had Stewart caught at square leg by Dekker minutes into the day. Another of Stewart's great strengths is his inventiveness. as he showed in the run chase

> Alan Lee . Lloyd reprimanded. brose's trimmph ...

in Bulawayo. On a pitch as

slow as this one, such an asset

is vital, as he showed in the first hour by outscoring Knight 26-7. Though Stewart's century occupied 369 minutes (and he scored 31, 29 and 31 in the three sessions), his rate of progress needed to be compared with those of others in this game. Crawley spent 220 minutes over his 47, Grant Flower 355 minutes over his '73; only Strang's even more

10). Bed light stopped play at 5.33pm— 12 overs lost. Fourth day: Lunch: 79-2 (3) overs, 149min; Stewart 41, Hussain. 2). Tear: 137-3 (65 overs, 27/min, Stewart 70, Thorpe 25). Second new ball: 180-3 (86 overs) at 4.25pm. Bad light stopped play at 5.02pm — two light stopped play at 5.02pm — two light stopped.

A C Walter low b Tuinell

SEA EN MIN PROMILARATE

inventive innings of 47 came at Hussain, driving loosely in the

a livlier tempo. Stewart said: "I'm very pleased with my innines, and also for Graham Thorpe. He showed today what a great battler he is and good players like him always come through a bad run of form."

While England's batsmen appear to have learnt some of the lessons of their pitiful performance on the first day. they are still contrained by the dour nature of the pitch. Poor Knight was unable to work out a modus operandus and, but for one wayward over from Olonga in which Knight helped himself to 11 runs, his 29-over stay would have

first slip via the wicketkeeper's pad off Strang it looked as though a crucial phase of the game may have begun, especially when the young leg-spin quickly removed

H R Clonge c Hussein b Croft 0 (9min, 6 bells) Extres (to 8, w 1, nb.6) 15

SCORING NOTES: Third day: start delayed until 12.40pm — 15 overs (net) lost, Tee: 155-6 (85 overs, 346min; G W Rower 02, Storny 9),

Umphres: K.T. Francis (Srl. Lanket) and R.B. Tiffin. Third umpine: I.D. Robinson. Match referee: Hanumant Saugh (India).

SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Built-

leavo); match drawn (scores leve

☐ Compiled by Bit Fundall

looked even more laboured. When Knight was caught at league for company, he battled away, no doubt heartened by ed him by the England man-

agement who must have been tempted to promote Crawley ahead of him. In the next 312 hours, he played the second best imnings of the day. As he and Stewart chiselled out 106 runs for the fourth wicket. If England are to prevent the match from slipping to a quiet draw today, this pair

covers. England were then 89

for three, a lead of just 30 and,

with the out-of-touch Thorpe

next in, they were up against

But by then Stewart's early

uncertainties were behind him

and he was exuding his now

familiar assurance, while the pitch was offering Strang only limited assistance. The Zimba-

bwe players, doubtless in-

spired by the watching President Robert Mugabe.

could keep the batsmen rela-tively quiet but they could not

Into this situation Thorpe

entered and for some time

looked like a man badly out of

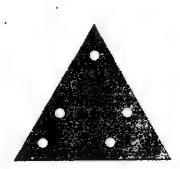
form. With his Surrey col-

the show of confidence award-

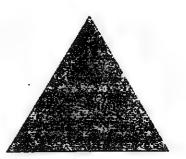
get them out.

must survive the new ball morning and then help to drive their side towards another 100 runs by lunch. That is the earliest point at which England can hope to and bowl out Zimbabwe.

It is an optimistic scenario but not an entirely implausible one, especially after the wonderful way in which Gough bowled on Saturday afternoon to claw his side back into the match. Another tight finish, of the kind that took place in Bulawayo, cannot be ruled out.



Turkey, broken fairy lights, relatives, turkey, chitty chitty, bang bang, relatives.



Yo-ho-ho.



FOOTBALL: TOTTENHAM MANAGER BEMOANS LACK OF LUCK AS NEWCASTLE GET BACK TO BUSINESS

Francis finds reality hard to swallow

Tottenham Hotspur 1

By MARK HODKINSON

THE tea lady at Newcastle United will not be applying for a job in the diplomatic corps. She nonchalantly planted a piece of cake before Gerry Francis, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, as he took his seat at the after-match press conference. He saw the irony immediately and pushed it to

His team had arrived at St James' Park in playful mood and helped Newcastle to find the ghost of their cavalier past. "We just kept chasing the game but their chances were going in and ours weren't. They were picking us off very well at the end." Francis said.

After a cagey first 20 min-utes. Newcastle and Tottenham scampered forward, ever forward, proffering football without a safety net. Eight goals were scored and numerous chances missed in an orgy of attacking football.

Newcastle were the victors because their rush of enthusiasm was underpinned by a semblance of discipline while Tonenham behaved like eager schoolboys in a trial match for the town team. In fact, they defended so deeply at times that they might have been swapping photography tips with the cameramen behind

After weeks of tactical tampering. Newcastie resorted to a traditional defensive formation of two centre halves and two full backs. When Gillespie was taken off suffering from concussion, it left them without a winger and this further honed their play. They took it in turns to exploit space on the flanks and Tottenham were left wondering from where and whom the next attack would emanate.

The first goal was typically Shearer. The England centre forward chased a punt upfield and, when he positioned himbetween Carr and Calderwood, the rest seemed inevitable. He was first to the ball and rammed it past

Then a strong header from Howells landed fortuitously in Histor's gloves. The Newcastle goalkeeper's clearance eventually fell to Beardsley



The frustration shows for Calderwood, of Tottenham, as Ferdinand rises to celebrate his second goal of the game for Newcastle

and, after some tricky foot-work, the ball was deflected by Ferdinand beyond Walker from close range.

Tottenham's fingerhold on the match was lost on the hour, when Ferdinand raced in to crash home Beresford's fine cross. Two minutes later. as the Tottenham defence courteously set the gears in reverse, Lee carried the ball more than 30 yards before placing it in the net.

Philippe Albert joined in the fun and was picked out by Lee close to goal. He kept the ball low and it squirmed beneath

Walker. A fan charged onto the pitch, presumably to remonstrate with Walker, but the goalkeeper was unperturbed - it was the first sign of life he had come across, aside from the Newcastle players littering his goalmouth.

The final four minutes produced three more goals. A crisp shot from Shearer found the net after a pass from Lee and the midfielder scored himself after Batty had singled him out. In the final minute Tottenham deservedly scored when Nielsen interrupted Beresford's impromptu balljuggling five yards before placing the ball past a bemused Hislop. Rosenthal and Howells had earlier missed excellent chances. Terry McDermott, Kevin

Keegan's assistant, deputised the press conference because Keegan had left the ground to be with his flustricken wife. McDermott was as bubbly as his perm, his moustache an inch higher than usual by virtue of a permanent smile. That was what we call a Newcastle United performance," he said. "Hopefully, we will be back to normal now. This win has been a long time due."

first in the league in eight matches and they had, up until Saturday, taken more than ten hours to score just five goals. Little wonder, then, that McDermott should crank up the hyperbole. "We have the type of players at this club who are able to go on and win the next eight or nine games. People who write us off do so at their own peril," he said. McDermott, Keegan et al

are right to sayour an exhila-

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): 8 Histor S Watson, D Peacock, P Appert, J Berest

once, Newcastle fulfilled their

attacking potential. This

morning, however, when the

players shiver on the training

pitch, should bring salutary

warnings that beating Totten-

ham Hotspur can sometimes

be a piece of cake, but it need

not necessarily be an hors-d'ocuvre to a weekly feast.

Cantona puts negative Leeds in their place

Manchester United 1 Leeds United ...

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT IS the season of goodwill, but what the hell. This was an awful game, thanks chiefly to a horribly negative Leeds United performance. There. We have got something that needed saying out of the way, and don't we all feel better for it?

The vast chasm that appeared between these sides earlier in the season, and prompted the Elland Road board to sack their manager, was not noticeably reduced on a fine winter's afternoon that begged for something brighter and lighter than this studgy seasonal fare. Only the scoreline was:

Manchester United, constrained by the humbug-spirit of their opponents, exercised just as much control as that autumn day when a 4-0 victory suggested great European deeds were still possible from them. Within four days, Juventus banished such thoughts, of course, but another comprehensive beating of Leeds indicates that a more humble objective — domestic domination — is still plausible.

really, because Manchester United side is not a patch on recent ones Alex Ferguson has fielded. Yet they are still strong enough to have forced a team with the pedigree of Leeds to run up the vhite flag after eight minutes.

That was the moment Eric Cantona scored from the penalty spot, and the visitors simply shut up shop to avoid a pasting. Harsh? Not when the words of George Graham, the Leeds manager, are considered. When you go 1-0 down after ten minutes, you just hope that the floodgates don't open," he said. "It is a lot to ask to come here and create chances, and I think we did well to restrict them."

Is it a lot to ask, though, for Leeds to have had a good go, even if they risked losing by a reater score? Surely a large noliday crowd deserves better. Premiership sides should have greater ambition

better to have lost 3-0, and at least create a chance?

Leeds didn't, not one. Gra-ham would argue that Manchester United didn't either, but, in fact they had two further opportunities despite the massed hordes in front of them, and despite the desperate nature of much of their own play. Cole, the substitute, headed wide when it seemed easier to find the net, and Johnsen was denied only by the agility of Martyn.

Perhaps a little Christmas spirit should be applied, because Manchester United are indisputably back on course in the title race, and few would bet against their experience, their knowledge of the way, after they closed the gap between themselves and Liverpool to two points on Saturday evening.

"We have not conceded a goal in our last three matches, and that is the consistency and strength in defence we need, to have a chance in the championship," Ferguson said.

We let in far too many goals earlier in this season, bad ones, soft ones, crazy ones - but they all still counted against us. The encouraging thing is, even though this was a dour struggle, we did not make mistakes."

The nagging thought remains, however, that for all the doffing of his cap that Graham performed afterwards, representatives of Juventus, FC Porto, Atlético Madrid, Rosenborg even, will have puzzied at the smell of

Manchester United were a study in the ordinary, punctuated by one moment of rare talent, Cantona and the sporadic Giggs combined exqui-sitely on the halfway line and then in the penalty area to create daylight, blacked out only by a foolish foul from Gary Kelly, the Leeds full back. Cantona converted the penalty, and Graham virtual-

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1) Schmeichel — G. Naville, D. May Johnson, D. Invin — D. Beckhory, R. Keni Schmeichel — G. Neville, D. May, Johnsen, D. Invin — D. Beckhern, P. Keune Bicholee (sub: N. Butt, 45mm), P. Glogo — Centone: — D.G. Golssjeer (sub; A. Cole, 7

Middlesbrough's birds of paradise have feathers ruffled



and now, my Best Beloved, I will tell you the story of the man who loved beauty. Beauty was everything to him; he beauty owned the world.

And it happened that he met another man, and this other man loved the love of beauty that he saw in the first man. And he said, I will obtain for you the three most beautiful things in the world, and I will give you a palace to put them in.

And so the man who loved beauty bought three beautiful birds; two from the forests of Brazil and one from the mountains of Italy. And he set them free in the beautiful palace that the second man had built for him, and he said: "I must be the happiest man in the world. I have beauty

And the first beautiful bird said: "I am surrounded by starlings, I am miserable." The second bird said: "You don't feed me right, I an miserable." And the third beautiful bird said: "It's too cold, take me home." And all three birds lost their beautiful feathers and ceased to

And they all lived unhappily ever after, and indeed, we are now waiting for the moment when the man who loved beauty is given a vote of confidence by the second man. For things at Middlesbrough are dire. Bryan Robson's dream of bring-

ing the beautiful game to Tesside has blown up in his face. A 3-0 defeat at Coventry City was exactly what was not needed after the hint of resurgence given to them by the 42 win over Everton on Boxing Day. Middlesbrough were soundly

beaten on a horribly hard and slithery, frostbound pitch that was close to unplayable. Emerson, one of Robson's trio of beautiful

Simon Barnes watches as Bryan Robson's vision

of the beautiful game is shattered by Coventry

foreigners, wearing black gloves and two pairs of shorts, looked plain bewildered by it all and spent most of the afternoon on his

Ravanelli, in red gloves, spent his afternoon glaring at people — mostly those who, like himself, wore a red shirt. I tell you, Paddington Bear could learn something from the Ravanelli hard stare. A couple of times, when a colleague failed yet again to understand his elevated conception of football, he dealt a look that almost sliced his head

Juninho, beautiful import No 3, twittered about with style and purpose, but little effect. The odd thing was that all three exotics were trying hard, but it added up to nothing. And nothing comes of

It has all gone horribly wrong. There seems little hope for it now. A few more results like this, and Robson will have to throw himself on his sword. His position is close to untenable. It is a sad tale. And behind the sadness is, of course, the giggling glee of the entire nation.

Glee at failure is, let us admit it, one of sport's pleasures, if not a specially edifying one. To see fancy foreigners getting their comeuppance is an unholy joy. Shane Warne getting slogged, Maradona missing a sitter, And on Saturday, Coventry was abuzz with glee: every time Emer-son's burn hit the frost; every time Juninho was bundled off the ball; every time Ravanelli was wrestled

Robson came into football management with a wild dream of beauty and something in all of us sponds to his failure. We seem to be happier with failure. Perhaos it is more our size.

Coventry are on a bit of a roll, with the traditional new manager's injection of desire. Under Gordon Strachan, they have beaten Newcastle United, Leicester City and Leeds United in successive matches, and they set about Middlesbrough with a confidence that such a run brings.

Huckerby was a handful for a defence that never settled. He opened the scoring, heading home Salako's cross as he nipped in between defenders. The game was wrapped up on the hour when Morris, under pressure from Huckerby, handballed in the box. McAllister, a figure filled with confidence and command, did the job from the penalty spot.

Middlesbrough scored the third goal themselves when, five minutes from the end of normal time, Liddle crisply volleyed home Teller's cross, again under pres-sure from Huckerby. If you get the impression that the Middles-brough defence cannot handle pressure, then so did Coventry. Aias, poor Bryan. He goes into

the new year facing the dreadful truth: that football matches are not won by beauty alone. He must have been reading too many football writers. And meanwhile, his birds of paradise moult and shiver in the boreal chills of

Pachardson, G McAllister, J Seleko — rx virtuen, D Huckarby
D Huckarby
MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2) G Walah — N Cox, S
Violers, C Monts teuto J-A Flortoft, 74mm) — C
Luddle, Emerson, C Blackmore, Juninho, C
Hignes (suto: A Campbell, 59) — M Book, F
Revanelt.
Platerse: S Lodge

Off-key Sunderland provide fans with little to sing about

By KEITH PIKE

FAILURE to win a football match is no crime, particularly when - as Sunderland supporters witness at almost every match — a team as limited as theirs is pitted against expensively and exotically assembled opposition. But not even, apparently, to try? Unforgiveable.

It is hard to believe that many of the two thousand or so expectant souls who followed their side almost the length of the country to shiver at Upton Park on Saturday would have appreciated this display. Sunderland, who have been widely and rightly praised for their resilience this season, were now worthy only of derision.

To get the excuses in first: Sunderland had played on Boxing Day. West Ham United had not. and the visitors were heavy-legged by comparison. They were also without Ball, the cornerstone of their midfield, and lost Russell, the deputy for the much-missed Quinn up front, with the match in its infancy, it would take more than that, though, much more, to explain away a performance so lacking in ambition and passion.

It did not need a genius to work up to it today," was as near as he out that West Ham were there for got to criticism.

nine games without a win, including a humiliating Coca-Cola Cup exit against Stockport County was a matter of record, their lack of confidence evident in the opening stages, when attack was unerringly transformed into desperate backpedalling by a series of poor passes. and when Miklosko was under threat as much from his own defenders as his rivals.

Yet Sunderland's response was to sit back and hope, to allow West Ham to play themselves into the ascendancy to leave the young

Full results and league tables Page 22

Bridges isolated: to invite defeat. By the time they had stirred themselves, it was too late. West Harn, ahead from the 35th minute,

sealed their FA Carling Premier-

ship victory with a fine solo effort

from Raducioiu at the death. Peter Reid's inquest was as lowkey and unsatisfactory as his team's display. Here was someone who, as a player, epitomised the urgency so integral to the English game, refusing to condemn the unacceptable. Perhaps his team was playing to orders. "We weren t Up for it might be nearer the mark. Until Bridges stretched Miklosko from 25 yards with 17 minutes remaining, the West Ham goalkeeper's only moment of concern had come when Bilie's sliced clearance forced an early, instinctive save. The Croatia defender. perhaps sensing that his luck was in, then advanced to give his side the lead, with a header from a corner - unmarked, naturally.

Porfirio and Williamson each struck the woodwork before halftime. Dicks prompted an acrobatic save from Perez, and Sunderland were caught again when Raducioiu cleverly slipped Melville and ran from halfway to beat Perez in the style that George Weah has made his trademark - taken early and on the run, with precision rather than power the key. It was finishing of the highest order.

The Romania striker, having issued a "play me or sell me ultimatum, had been granted four minutes to prove his point and in that time showed more appetite for success than Sunderland had throughout. If this was not a one-off afternoon, Reid's men will be in serious relegation trouble. WEST HAM UNITED (3.5-2) L Modaska — S.Båc M. Risper, J. Dicks. — M. Bowen, D. Whitemson, I Bashop, J. Moneur, sub. F. Lampaid, 64man, M. Huntes. — M. Herrell, (sub. F. Raduciona, 66), H. Portino.

Pramo SUNDERLAND (4-4-1-1) I. Perez — G. Mač. Mehallo, R. Ord. D. Kubroh — D. Kefr, S. Agrent Bragewell, M. Smith (Jub. S. Arston 52) — A. Pest C. Russell, (Jub. M. Bridges, 27). Referent R. Dillion.

azil wilkal

Nigeria make approach to lure Keegan

KEVIN KEEGAN, the Newcastle United manager, and Howard Wilkinson, the former Leeds United manager, have been approached by Nigeria to become their national football coach.

Nigeria. who won the gold medal at the Olympic Games in Atlanta by beating Argentina in the final, are seeking to enlist a high-profile European to succeed Jo Bonfrere, the former coach, who resigned in October.

"We have got in touch with highprofile managers such as Kevin Keegan. Howard Wilkinson. Louis van Gaal [the Ajax coach] and Johan Cruyff to select one for the vacant position of manager of the Super Eagles," Danladi Bako, assistant director of the Nigerian Sports Ministry, said.

Amodu Shaibu, who had heen deputy to Bonfrere, has been coaching Nigeria since the Dutchman resigned alleging poor treatment and interference from the country's football authorities.

Nigeria hope to have a coach in place by next month. Bako said: We are desperate to have a new manager to work with Shaibu. But the man to fill Bonfrere's position must be able to fit into and operate within the Nigerian situation."

Nigeria, who are preparing for a World Cup qualifying match away to Kenya on January II, are second in their group behind Guinea, who lead on goal difference.

Excess of egg the lingering ingredient in Chelsea's mix

Sheffield Wednesday.....2

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

STAMFORD BRIDGE is an exciting place to be. Messrs Gullit, Zola, Vialli, di Matteo and Leboeuf bring an additional cosmopolitan flavour to SW6; the foreign tongues, Italian flags and south London humour add spice: the foorball is clean, competent and coherent. It is an altogether heady mix.

Cesare Maldini, the new Italy manager, flew in to survey the scenery on Saturday. Time for a swift appraisal of Zola and di Matteo - sadly. Vialli never rose from the Chelsea substitutes' bench - and a quick look at what the FA Carling Premiership has to offer. Italy play England at Wembley

on February 12, in a crucial World Cup qualifying tie, and Maldini needs every clue he can muster. He was impressed by what he saw, through Azarri-finied speciacies. and equally appreciated the pride and passion of the Premiership. "I liked Zola, he did well,"

Maldini said. "Di Matteo was good in the second half." And what of England? What of Wembley in six weeks' time? The home hacks were curious, desperate for a hint of trepidation in Maldini's cool, distinguished demeanour. We already know their players

well," he said. "It is a pity we can't watch their team before we play but I have videos of their games against Moldova and Georgia. That will be enough." He chatted freely before departing. A nice,

Do not forget Sheffield Wednesday. Tactically sound if limited individually, they contributed greatly to a stirring spectacle. Zola tore them apart early on, tucking in Hughes's pass in the ninth minute and repaying the favour midway through the first half with a masterful chip. Hughes nodded it in, comfortably.

It was too much for David Plear. the Wednesday manager, who left his directors' box perch for a worm's eye view from the dugout. He might have missed Pembridge making it 2-1 with a scorching drive only lo seconds later, as he descended to ground level by lift, but he was in time for some hasty reorganisation that determined the

final outcome. Atherton was subsequently designated to man-mark Zola and the ny Italian never exerted the same influence. Atherton at least allowed him space when he took free kicks and corners - it would have been amusing had he not - but the point was made. Job done.

Pleat later conceded his initial error. "I had a plan for Zola," he said, "but it didn't work. So I had to change it." Zola accepted the com-

the course, "I prefer my wife," he said, "but it was no problem. It was

like that in Italy in every game." Wednesday - now unbeaten in Il matches, nine of them draws were urged on by Hillsborough's travelling band of musicians, who kept up a hypnotic, samba beat throughout. "Tango", their topless cheerleader, displayed ludicrous loyalty on the most bitter of

afternoons. It was perhaps fitting

that his orange-shirted heroes

should reward him in injury time. Chelsea had long posed and postured. "I always felt we were the better side, Rund Gullit, the player-manager, said, "but if you miss so many chances, you can always be surprised. We were sloppy, it was stupid." From looking likely victors, Chelsea were left

with excessive egg on face.
Di Matteo's effort was ruled out at one end, for offside, and Gullit's defensive header was weak at the other. Stefanovic pounced, volleying in from 25 yards through the flailing grasp of Grodas, and the referee's assistant confirmed that it had crossed the line and he had scored his first goal for the club.

SCOTEC BIS TITST goal for the club,
CHELSEA (3-5-2) F Grodas — M Dubery, R
Guilt, S Clarks — D Petrescu, C Burley, E Newton
(sub: D Wise, 72min), R of Mailten, T Phelan — G
Zoia, M Hughes.
SHEPFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-1-3-2)* K Pressmen
— I Nolen, D Waller, D Stefanovic, S Nicol (sub: S
Caless, Se) — P Atherton — G Whatingham, M
Pembridge, R Humphrays (sub: C Doreldson, 81)
— A Booth, B Carbone (sub: R Bitnier, 75).
Reteree: P Durlán

Comments of the control of the contr

Clough inim

Forest's fact

Gayle and

Ekoku too

quick for

Royle's

rearguard

By PETER BALL

WIMBLEDON'S ultimately

Everton ...

Wimbledon..

FOOTBALL: BEASANT CLEARS WAY FOR LIVERPOOL TO INCREASE LEADERSHIP OF FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Barnes provides bright long-range forecast

Liverpool

By Ron Huginus POSTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WITH the sands of time trickling away in the last game of football in 1996, a goal struck audaciously by John Barnes, capitalising on an error from David Beasant, put Liverpool five points clear in the FA Carling Premiership and confined Southampton to second from bottom place.

Such a goal erroneously described as a fluke by Barnes himself, does nothing more than confirm how capricious are the slings and arrows of fortune, in a season that is proving devilishly hard to predict. It could be the goal that, come May of 1997, brings the championship back to Liverpool. It could also, although on yesterday's form that would be cruel, put Southampton out of the Premiership just as they are about to start to build a proper stadium for the modern game.

Buoyant Barnsley Steve McManaman

For long spells at The Deli, a decaying arena which holds on to a ferociously intense atmosphere. Southampton actually played above the stan-dard of the would-be champions. "We have given Liverpool six points this year," said Graeme Sources, the South-

You've got to feel for the goallæeper. Even someone of his experience must feel the hurt as much as a 17-year-old, and it's the story of our season we play football in the right way, we pass it about, and we then make daft mistakes like that, shooting outselves in the foot. I know there isn't a player. born who does not make a mistake ... but that wasn't what I said in the dressing-

room after the game." The mistake? It was breathtaking in its carelessness Beasant had played quite well, had spread his giant frame high and low to deprive Robbie Fowler of earlier chances. There was no threat to him or his goal in the 77th minme when he chased a hall to the right of his penalty area. His simple intent was to keep that ball in play, to prevent a



James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, is well placed to make a comfortable save from a diving header by Watson, the Southampton forward. Photograph: Julian Herbert

hurriedly downfield. It fell to, in the words of both managers, arguably the one player on the field who would instantly despatch it 43 yards into the net before the desperate Beasant, scrambling and diving across his line, could

Thus was an undistinguished win, in a so far undistinguished championship, completed. Southampton, leaving out Matthew Le Tissier for the first hour because he is not yet fully fit, used their pace, their industry and their athleticism to dislocate the rhythm of Liverpool. Barnes himself could not get to admitted, "We were atrocious" in the first half, we could put two passes together.": That was because of South-

ampton, a team with Claus Lundekvam able to stride purposefully from the back, with Eyal Berkovic, the experienced Israel international, making the play with his intuitive passes. And a cameo of what was happening to Liverpool, what was stifling them, was the contest between Steve McManaman and his marker Ulrich Van Gobbel.

Van Gobbel is fron Surinam, via Holland, and he has the acceleration of a sprinter to cope with England's finest.

stifled by Sheffield Wednesday's Peter Atherton and Leicester City's Colin Hill.

His manager. Roy Evans, suggested that the man-marking is not so much a problem to McManaman, as to his colleagues. "It's not only about Macca, the other players are frightened to give him the ball when he's tight marked. We've got to put the ball into his feet. he'll get through in the end." Until that strange goal, that

terrible reward, in the 100th une Beasant has started for Southampton, and the 300th league game for Liverpool by Barnes, no one got through. Fowler, his sore ankle hit

opening in the twelfth minute when, from Thomas's pass, he tried an angled shot. Beasant saved it manfully, but Collymore was standing waiting to be served.

Liverpool, the artists straining to keep touch with the workaholics, were at times quite rugged around their own penalty box, but Neilson cannot punish a defence from dead-ball kicks the way Le Tissier can. It was 38 minutes before Van Gobbel, releasing himself from negativity, ran 35 yards onto a delightful ball from Berkovic, ran behind the unaware Ruddock but struck the side-netting.

showed instant control and a wonderful turn, but saw David James save his shot. Le Tissier came on to produce nonchalant venom with a shot from 25 yards, but James, though surprised by the power of it, emphasised his interna-

Moments later Le Tissier, wonderfully inventive, flicked the ball over the shoulder of Ruddock, was obstructed and. taking the free kick himself. was denied again by James. That goalkeeper then excelled himself, stretching elastically along the ground to deflect a goal-bound shot from

cheeky young men, McManaman and Fowler, wished everyone a happy new year. Souness, asked if there were injuries, responded: Broken hearts. But my philosophy is if you feel sorry for yourself, there's absolutely nothing in life for you. My players will be ready for the next match against Wimbledon, and I hope there are no

gifts this time."

SOUTHAMPTON: (3-1-3-1-2) D Beass
— N Mackison, C Lundslovern, F Benali
U Ven Gebbel (cub: D Hughes, B Irran)
Melicon, R Steler, M Roberton — E Berkon

convincing win at Goodison Park on Saturday left them level on points with Manchester United and Arsenal, sitting on Liverpool's shoulders, "We've got two games in hand on Liverpool." Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, pointed out. Is it time to start thinking the unthinkable? On their second-half performance, Wimbledon are a lot closer than Everton, but they hardly exude championship class. Their success this season has led to a lot of loose talk about them being a good football side these days, Well,

up to a point, Lord Copper. They are still pretty direct but these days it's not a hoof, it's a good long ball," Graham Stuart testified. The days of Beasant and Fashanu, 80-yard punts and flying elbows, might have gone, but Grant and Unsworth both needed attention to head injuries, and

the ball still goes from back to front pretty quickly.
After 15 minutes, Gayle was gesturing to Kimble that the occasional pass on the ground might be nice. But then if, in the absence of Earle, your central midfield is Jones and Cunningham, a destroyer and a defender; there is not much point in playing through it, and Wimbledon did not.

However, they are well organised, solid in defence despite the aberration at Villa Park, and Leonhardsen and the front pair of Ekoku and Gayle add genuine quality. They do what they do, but they do it very well." Joe Royle said afterwards. "You know what they are going to do. They turn you, the two front men run into the corners all the time, Leonhardsen runs in behind you. They don't do anything that surprises you. but they do it very well and, in the end, they got two of their

goals that way."
. As a pair, Gayle and Ekoku may not have the same instant recognition as Shearer and Fowler, but they are rapidly having the same effect on defenders. "The two front players have been a handful for everybody. They've got a good understanding, they can both catch pigeons and they've got blistering pace," Kinnear said. Although Earl Barrett had an excellent game for Everton, in the end their pace and power, and the brilliant runs of Leonhardsen pulled a tiring Everton apart. It was an impressive performance, for

45 minutes.
Proclaiming them as genuine contenders, though, over-looks the first half. Wimbledon would have you believe that they played well in the first half, too. No one else thought so. In that period. Southall did not have a save to make, while Everton missed the chances to have the game

won by half-time. The worst miss came from Ferguson, who seems to have started to believe his own publicity and was ineffectual throughout. Just after the half hour, with Everton leading through Stuart's goal, he came in totally unchallenged to meet Barmby's cross in front of goal eight or ten yards out.

For a player of his reputation in the air, a goal looked inevitable, but a weak header sent it straight at Sullivan. A shot from a good position went wide, and the same result befell Barmby's effort, so Wimbledon survived.

Everton, with five players out, and Ebbrell and Rideout both short of fitness, had shot their bolt, whereas Wimbledon, who had not played on Boxing Day, got stronger. "I said at half-time that the game's there to be won," Kinnear said. "I gave Leonhardsen a free role, told him to make more runs because they weren't picking him up."

For a time, Southall kept

Wimbledon at bay with two brilliant saves, but Ekoku brought them level from a from then on there was only one winner. Jupp, a £200,000 buy from

Fulham, made his debut memorable as his long ball found Leonhardsen running free behind Unsworth to beat Southall, and then Gayle, showing fine balance and touch for a big man, accepted Ekoku's flick to round Southall and score.

thall and score.

EVERTON (4-4-2): N Southall — M
Hortiger, E Barrett, D Unsworth, G Speed —
G Stuart, J Ebbreil (sub: J Hille, 7smri), A
Grent, N Barmby — P Releval (sub: M
Branch, 72h, D Ferguson.

WMMELEDON 14-4-2: N Sulvan — D
Jupp. D Blackwell B McAllater, A Rimble —
N Ardley, V Johas, K Curinnigham, O
Leorifardsen — E Ekolu, M Gaylo
Estates — E Ekolu, M Gaylo

Clough shines as Arsenal guns silenced by Villa revival Forest's loan star

Nottingham Forest 2

History ruffled

BY PAT GIBSON

FRANK CLARK may yet hold the key to Nottingham Forest's chances of surviving in the FA Carling Premiership. The manager who resigned just before Christmas because he felt there was nothing more he could do for them, is now expected to take over at Manchester City and one of the first things he might have to do there is decide whether to let Nigel Clough rejoin Forest on a permanent basis.

How much that would mean to the side anchored at the foot of the Premiership table was abundantly clear at Filbert Street on Saturday, when Forest twice hit back to in the line Midlands derby.

Clough was the central fig-ure and, if his finishing had been of the same consistent quality as his workrate, his vision, and his passing, Forest could well have won a league game for only the third time

Stuart Pearce, whose first decision as caretaker-manager was to take Clough on a month's loan, left no one in any doubt that he would like to keep him. "I have spent a lot of time playing with Nigel," he said. "I know his abilities and his character and I think he would be an asset to the club."

The Forest supporters obviously felt the same way as they sang "Nigel's coming home", but unfortunately life is not that simple at the City Ground these days. A permanent move depends on any number of issues, such as the impending takenver of the club that tied Clark's hands in the transfer market, the identity of Manchester City's next manager - "It could be Frank Clark, who knows?" Pearce said - and the fact that Pearce himself has agreed to combine the jobs of player, captain and manager only until mid-Janu-

Clough, for his part, looked delighted to be back in familiar territory after the wasted years at Liverpool and Manchester. He had been concussed during the 4-0 drubbing by Manchester

United on Boxing Day, but he was as alert as ever yesterday in setting up a chance that Campbell squandered and then showing how it should be done by scoring crisply from Campbell's flick for Forest's first equaliser.

Leicester had taken an early lead when Heskey headed in from a free kick and then threatened to overpower Forest after they had changed their system to allow Heskey to partner Claridge up front. They went ahead again when Heskey held off three defenders before sending in Izzet for another well-taken goal in the 63rd minute, and only three minutes remained when Cooper forced in Forest's second goal from Allen's

Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, was not too disappointed. "I thought we were terrific in terms of attitude and application, considering that we were down to the bare bones with only one more senior player available apart from the 16 we had on the field and the substitutes'

hench." he said. This was the start of the second half of the season. We picked up 22 points from 19 games in the first half and if we can get another 22 from 19 it will hopefully be enough to

keep us up."
Pearce looked far less drained by the passion of the afternoon, despite the pressure of juggling his dual role and the fact that Forest are facing an even more demanding test with only 14 points in the bag so far. He did. however, admit that he is

finding life very difficult.
"Mentally, it is very exhausting because you can't stop thinking about football," said. You sit at home at night and write down a team and that leads on to another team and in the end you've got ten teams scattered across your living-room floor." He did not need to add that

Clough would be in every one

LEICESTER CITY (4-1-3-1): K Keller — S Grøyson, S Prior, I Marshall, N Lewis, (sub: J Lawrence, 81mm) — C Hall — S Taylor, M Izzet, G Parker, E Haskey — S Cleridge. IZER, G PARKE, E HERICH S C. S. S. Z.:
NOTTINGHAM PORJEST (3-5-2):
Crossley — S Bisherwick, S Chattle,
Peerse — A-I Hastand, C Cooper,
Clouch, S Germall (sub: D Lytte, 69).
Woan (asb C Allen, 78) — D Seunders,
Campbell.

as it all in the legs or all in the mind? Just why did Arsenal, having dominated the first half in which, both managers agreed, they could and should have scored several more goals than they did, collapse in the second half against a Villa team which proceeded to run

rings round them? Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manas er, was in no doubt; but then he had rehearsed his excuses, claiming that Villa would have an advantage because on Boxing Day they had played hours earlier than Arsenal. "We play a very good first half," Wenger said, "and could kill the game. We can't do it in the second half. I think we went down because we're not physically capable of keeping the

Brian Little, the Villa manager, said: "For the last 15 minutes of the first half, we were standing in the dugout saying if we get to half-time I-O, we've got a chance

And so they had. In all fairness, we needed half-time just to talk through the mistakes we were making." Little said. "We actually put ourselves under pressure from our free kicks. We were too static, too predictable. Yes, we wanted to raise the tempo, but the second point was to use the ball

They emphatically did both. Yet in that first half, Arsenal played some of the most exciting football they have done all season. They took the lead with a magnificent early goal, Dennis Bergkamp's exquisite through-ball re-leasing Ian Wright — now facing a three-match suspension after his sending-off at Nottingham Forest was confirmed - who put it away with a perfect diagonal shot. In the closing minutes of the half. Brian Glanville sees Arsène Wenger's team make do

with a 2-2 draw after an epic struggle at Highbury

Bergkamp, still in irresistible form. sent Wright through again, Wright tacked round Bosnich, but Scirneca raced back to clear off the line.

A couple of minutes later. Bergkamp, taking a pass from Patrick Vieira, a dominant, decisive force in midfield up to half-time, went by Staunton for a shot that Bosnich kept out with his legs.

Had Villa gone three or four goals down, which would hardly have been unfair to them, would they have come out for the second half so full of fire and running? Would Arsenal have lost their grip on the midfield, would Bergkamp and Vieira have largely disappeared? Paul Merson, who would eventually

restore Arsenal's lead, thought: "We kept going," in the second half, though he added, "We didn't even get started." What he plainly meant was that, while Arsenal did lose their grasp, they were still physically capable. Well might he say, of Dwight Yorke, the Villa striker, be didn't get a kick in the first half, I don't think. The second half, he was very good. He twists and turns. He's sharp. He's a good player."

BEN RADPORD / ALLSPORT

Wright races away in triumph after opening the scoring against Villa

Now using his pace on the right flank, now probing through the mid-dle. Yorke proceeded to give Arsenal the chasing his own team had suffered in the first half. After 51 minutes, Lukic fumbled Yorke's angled shot, Taylor swooped, and Bould scraped the ball

> searching long ball to Merson, five minutes later, almost produced a goal, but Vieira soon afterwards put Lukic in trouble with a back-ness that nearly gave Yorke a goal. idway through the half, Villa equalised through Savo Milosevic. Too easy to

The tide had turned. True, Vielra's

write him off as a surly Slav, woefully one-footed, who drifts through matches making difficult things look difficult, but doing them just the same. When Nelson crossed and Draper headed back across goal, Milosevic's left foot completed the execution. And after Merson, quite against the

play, had made it 2-1 after a glorious run which took him past two men and ended with a searing right-foot shot. Milosevic it was who shrewdly and instantly put Yorke through for the equaliser. Not a bad afternoon's work for a player whose viral trouble made him doubtful till a couple of hours before the kick-off.

Bergkamp, weary or not, might still have won it for Arsenal when he beautifully beat two men down the left, to finish with a shot just wide of the far post. But a draw, however schizoid, was finally fair enough.

ARSENAL (3-5-2)* J Lukic -- S Bould, A Adams, M Keown -- R Periou, R Garde Isto 5 Morrow, 67min, P Viera, N Winterburn, P Merson -- D Berghamp, I Winght. ASTON VILLA (3-5-2) M Bosneth -- S Staurton, U Brugu, R Samesa -- F Nelson, I Taylor, M Draper (subt. T Johnson 88), A Townsend, A Winght -- D Yorke, S

Unassuming Parkes smooths Eriksson's path

Derby County Blackburn Rovers0

By RICHARD HOBSON

THERE is not an ounce of jealousy in Tony Parkes when he outlines the differences between Sven Goran Eriksson and himself. In terms of style, they are further apart than the distance between Blackburn and Sampdoria. Eriksson is a Ferrari and Armani man, Parkes a Ford Mondeo and tracksuit bloke.

However, the prospects for Eriksson when he leaves the Serie A club at the end of the season to take up management at Ewood Park, are dictated by the success of Parkes in a caretaker role until then. While Eriksson will accept the reins regardless of Blackburn's status, Parkes suggested in his endearing way that it would be nice if the club remained in the FA Carling Premiership.

They are third from bottom

7 -6

today but a run of eight games with one defeat suggests that both men have room for optimism. The most reassuring aspect of Eriksson's long-anticipated appointment is that Parkes will remain at the club under him.

Football can ill afford to lose such thoroughly decent, open, honest people, and he in turn longs for the day in May when he conducts his final press conference and can sprint away from the spotlight. That, at least, is until the next time that Robert Coar, the chairman, asks him to fill in. "This is the third time I have been caretaker manager but

usually it is for three or four games and then I am out on a blaze of glory. This time people will be a bit critical because I have time to do things my way," Parkes said. "I have changed the formation. "I have changed the formation and altered one or two players but I think they are enjoying

The 4-3-3 formation, a slight but important variant on the 4-4-2 of Ray Harford, his predecessor, sees Jason Wilcox and Kevin Gallacher flank Chris Sutton up front and accommodate Lars Bohinen.

considered a luxury by Harford, in midfield. Sutton is a happier soul these days. despite hitting the bar and placing a header too near to Russell Hoult from close range on Saturday. Parkes felt that this was

Blackburn's best away performance of the season, regardless of the fact that, for Derby. Dean Sturridge hit the bar and both Aljosa Asanovic and Chris Powell missed good chances. The home side have earned just two points from their last five games and suddenly look jittery. "It is going to be a dogfight to avoid relegation this season and it could involve 12 to 15 teams," Jim Smith, the man-

Like Parkes, increasingly resigned to losing one of his goalkeepers. Shay Given or Tim Flowers, Smith has issues to address. He will not, though, turn his mind to the behaviour of Igor Stimac, the captain, who was booked for the tenth time this season for pushing Sutton to the ground. Somebody suggested that the Croatia defender had been daft. "Not daft, I thought it was normal for Igor," Smith sighed. "I do not think any-

signed. I do not think anybody can change him."

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): R Hout — G
Fowet, D Yates, I Surrec — J Laursen, C
Daily (sub D Fowet, 45mm), L Caraley, A
Assnow, C Fowet — A Ward (sub: M
Gebbladm, 45). D Sturridge
81.ACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-3): S Gwen —
J Kenne, H Berg, C Hendry, G Le Saux — T
Sherwood, W Mckinlay, L Bohinen — h
Gelacher, C Surlon, J Wilcox.

Reference: D Fletchy



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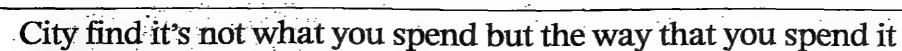
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ONE WAS MANE WAS MANE WITH BUT IN PROPERTY.





Bosancic, the Serbian midfield player, beats Margetson from the penalty spot for Barnsley's first goal against Manchester City. Photograph: Andrew Varley

Wilson's workers lighten the darkness Oliver Holt visits Oakwell, where a talented Barnsley side emerged 2-0

Their 2-0 win over City on Satur-

the mist crept down over the hills that Barnsley clings to and caked the town in an early dusk. The coiliery wheel brooding in-the valley that falls away from one side of Oakwell disappeared in the gloc n as the second half began and opposite, sandwiched between the two tiers of the East Stand, the lights in the executive boxes came on.

4: X 350

Thirty groups of faces peered out through 30 steamy windows and watched a Trinidadian with skills so mercurial he made some of the Manchester City players look like Sunday league clodhoppers and a Serb who was as regal as Raud Gullit inspire Barnsley to a perfor-mance which tore the big boys from across the Pennines to pieces and lifted Barnsley to second place in the Nationwide League first division.

In the other imposing stand, behind the goal City attempted to defend in the first half, the home fans taunted their opponents with jeers of going down, going down. By the end, the visiting fans, keen to take a pop at their chairman, Francis Lee, who was on holiday in the Caribbean, even gave their rivals one of the ultimate accolades. "I'd rather be in Barnsley than Barbados," they sang. That might be giving the club a better press than even they deserve, but times are changing in this part of south Yorkshire. Barnsley and

Oakwell might evoke thoughts of an old-fashioned ground - wooden seats, pipe smoke, low-slung stands amid rows of terraced houses and decaying facilities, and an up-andunder team to match - but the reality is rather different. The reality is a club that has, so

victors and got right back on track for fame beyond their own backyard far, managed to marry the friendliness and earthy tradition that it has day moved Barnsley hot on to the built up in a long history with a

the first division and a thoroughly modern team with one of the best young managers in the sport, Danny Wilson. There are no Luddites here. "The mistake people make," Wilson said after the game, "is thinking that the fans here have just been watching gritty football all their lives. It is perceived by people as all flat caps and whippets up here and

BY DAVID MADDOCK

MANCHESTER City hope to con-

firm Frank Clark as their fifth

manager of a turbulent, and fre-

quently farcical season before the

New Year's Day fixture at

Birmingham City.
Negotiations with the former

Notingham Forest manager are at

an advanced stage and the Maine

Road board is expected to rubber-

stamp Clark's demands this after-

noon. If an agreement can be reached, then the club will call a

press conference on Tuesday to

unveil its new manager.

modern stadium that would not

disgrace the Premiership let alone

maybe it is. But that is not to say the supporters are not au fait with

heels of Bolton Wanderers, the team that knocked them off the top of the table on Boxing Day, when they lost at Stoke City, a defeat that was only their second in 17 games. They have not got a big squad and Wilson's record signing is the £250,000 be paid for John Hendrie,

compared with the millions being lavished on new players elsewhere. The plight of City, though, who have now won just seven points out of a possible 33 since their hapless care-taker-manager, Phil Neal, took charge, is evidence that big spending cannot buy you success.

Francis Lee, the City chairman,

with David Bernstein, the director

with financial responsibilities.

Sources at the club suggest that a

deal is close to being completed to

to inherit the position already

occupied by Alan Ball, Asa Hart-ford, Coppell and Phil Neal, the

Apart from the usual financial

complications, Clark has also

sought assurances about his control

of team matters. He will bring in at

least three of his own backroom

caretaker-manager, this season.

resent Clark with the opportunity.

backyard and maybe they want to change that. That can only help me." City bank on finalising Clark deal

Wilson, a Lancastrian who lived in

Wigan until he was 16, says there is

no secret behind the success he has

brought across the Pennines. Care-

ful husbandry is essential, of course,

when the crowds average just over

9,000, a product, among others, of the disasters which have befallen the

"It is all about the players," Wilson

said. "If you can instil confidence in

players at certain times and marry

new players into your system, that is how you succeed. There are no

superstars at this club. Most of them

are only famous in their own

mining industry in recent years.

In the absence on holiday of staff, with Alan Hill, the Nottingham Forest assistant manager, a Clark has entered into negotiations likely candidate. Lee will talk to directors formula

row to approve the appointment if Clark can agree terms. The chairman's presence is not so necessary after control of City effectively passed to the businessman, Stephen Boler, when he purchased the largest single shareholding.

City are hoping that they can persuade Clark to accept the position before the next game in order to arrest a slide that has plunged them into the bottom four of the Nationwide League first division.

If some of them continue to perform as they did against City, their fame will spread and the spectators will come. Marcelle, the Trinidadian midfielder, produced one drag-back turn in the first half that fooled Summerbee so comprehensively it was embarrassing, but worth the admission money all by

By then, Barnsley were already two goals ahead. Bosancic, a majestic Serbian midfielder, scored the first from the penalty spot after Symons was rather harshly adjudged to have handled on the goalline, but there was no argument about the second. Sheridan picked out a fine run by Moses with a raking 50-yard pass and the result-ing header floated over Margetson. City railied briefly and Lomas

should have pulled one back for them just before the interval, when he volleyed Heaney's cross wide, but for most of the second half, Barnsley were coasting, bursting into life occasionally. Even then, the understanding between their forwards, Hendrie and Wilkinson, surpassed anything City possessed.

"It's not just 'at we're up theer." the club mascot, Tommy Tyke, said in his programme notes, "it's 'ow we've done it, playin' oppen, attackin' football booath 'ooam an' away." If they keep it up, the Premiership could be in for a treat next season.

BARNSLEY (3-6-2): D Watson — M Appleby, S David, A de Zeeuw — N Eeden, J Bosanoc, C Marcelle, D Shandan, A Morses — P Wilkmann, . Hendrie (sub: A Liddell, 80mm) MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-1-1): M Margetson — L Crooks, K Symons, I Brightweit, E McGotonck (sub-M Brown, 49) — N Summarbee, S Lomas, J Wheley, N Hounty — G Kinkladae — U Riceler,

Man-marking myth misses the real point

year's wish, then, apart from Liverpool winning the FA Carling Premiership, it clamour that is building up about teams choosing to manmark me. It is a myth.

Every time that Liverpool do not play well, do not win, then immediately it is because I was man-marked. What utter nonsense. It is annoying nonsense, too, because the results are being completely over-shadowed by a spurious argument. I might as well go and sit in the the stand and take my marker with me, then let the rest get on with it, if that is the case. I have been man-marked, to

some extent, for the past two or three seasons, and yet now Liverpool are at the head of the table, it becomes an issue, specifically when we fail at home. Most notably, there has been an outcry in the matches against Sunderland, Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester City. Apparently, we did not win those matches because I was negated by a man-marker.

Apart from being an insult to
my team-mates, it is woefully inaccurate anyway.

We created enough chances to have beaten Wednesday comfortably. I hit the post and was denied a simple tap-in because the ball hit Des Walker without him being aware of it. Jason McAteer hit the post, Robbie Fowler had at least two shots well saved. And yet the only topic of conversation afterwards was that Peter Atherton marked me.

I suppose I could accept it as compliment when people say stop McManaman and you stop Liverpool" but you don't hear many footballers saying that, do you? It is flattering, but a cheap compliment.

If anything, I enjoy being man-marked. It is a competition between myself and the defender, and I feel that the odds are generally balanced in my favour. It is a strange feeling sometimes, to see a man absolved of any responsibility to play football in order to track me around like a little puppy, but it offers me some decent weapons. " Basically, I can take that

marker wherever I choose on the pitch, and that means areas where the particular player is vulnerable. If it is a centre half, then I can take him wide on the flank to expose him, one-on-one. I can also take him away from the defensive areas to allow my teammates to exploit the space.

it can be an interesting battle, being shadowed for 90 minutes. You get the psychological challenge as well as the physical one. The man who is trying to stop me, frequently **McMANAMAN**



trying to kick me, will try to psyche me out with a few choice comments. I might respond by reminding him of what a good footballer he must

be to be given a marking job. Given the right service, I would quite fancy my chances one-on-one with any marker, but the service is the key. If I get the ball, then I feel I can expose my marker. Just look at the people who have tailed me this season. I think every one has been booked and, as soon as they get the yellow card,

they are more exposed. But the problem at Anfield, on occasions this season, has not been that teams have closed me down individually, but that they have stopped the whole team. Leicester, not Wednesday, was the classic, and most worrying, example. Against Wednesday, we created plenty of chances; against Leicester on Boxing Day, we created hardly any.

they came with a gameplan, and it worked. They were well-organised, with ten men behind the ball most of the time. They swamped the midfield and defence and stopped us passing. I was subdued, not because I was man-marked, but because we were stopped from work-ing the ball forward.

It is a frustrating tendency when teams come to Anfield but there is no point bleating about it, because Liverpool teams have had to endure such tactics for the past 30 years or more. It is something we have to accept as the price of success, and get on with the job of breaking teams down.

That means being patient and sticking to our principles. Manchester United had similar problems at home to Leicester, but they were patient, and scored three goals in the last few minutes.

It has to be our plan from now on, because it is going to get worse between now and the end of the season. We have to be professional in attempting to overcome such problems if we are to win the title.

Young Cobblers please Atkins Beauchamp lauds with confident forward march it at the Manor

BY MEL WESS

THERE was a time, not so long ago, when Northampton Town's football bore an uncomfortably close resem-blance to their nickname, the Cobblers. No more. Under Ian Atkins, their hard-working manager. Northampton are fast becoming a force in the Nationwide League third division, and a convincing performance on Saturday under-

lined the point. Admittedly, Alan Mullery's Barnet were without some of their better players for this encounter on the blasted heath of Sixfields Stadium - Devine, Hodges and Hardyman were among those sick or injured - but that should not be allowed to detract from the qualities of Northampton. Like so many of his contem-

poraries in the nether reaches of the league, Atkins is forced

to operate within financial constraints that would make a shoestring budget expansive. Nonetheless, the former Sunderland player has built a first-team squad of predomi-nantly youthful talent.

He has them playing decent football, too, and for that he can thank some of the more seasoned players in his side, who are providing the leavening of experience upon which his young Turks are building something worthwhile. Sean Parrish, a £35,000 buy from Doncaster, and Neil

Grayson were the driving forces in the Northampton midfield, and Barnet had no one to match them. A goal by Sampson five minutes before the break and another by Cooper nine minutes from time settled the issue. Atkins has to juggle re-

sources more, even, than most of his peers. Northampton play in a modern, councilowned stadium, and the rent they pay to the local authority to save money on his playing staff while at the same time providing good, crowd-attracting football. The better they play and the more people who come to watch them, the more it costs. It must be a headache,

but he is enjoying himself.
"I'm excited by what we've got going here," he said after a victory that saw his side move into sixth place in the table. "Some of the kids in this club are fantastic.

Tve never been in a club with a better set of young players. Anybody who is in the sort of position we're in with 20 games to go has got a chance of a play-off place. If we can maintain our form and don't suffer too much from injuries and suspensions. I believe we're in with a shout." MORTHAMPTON TOWN (4-4-2: A Wood-man — I Sampaon, D O'Shite, R Warburton, L. Maddison — I Claricson, D Renvie, N Grayson (subr C Lee, Sprint), S Pamel — M Rush (sub: D Martin, 86), M Cooper. BAPNET (4-4-2): M Teytor — K Railtey, Primus, L. Howerth, S Gayle — Tománson, P Wilson, R Codiner, G Brazil -D Samuela, J Campbell.

Walker gives Woking timely lift

Slough Town.....0 DY WALTER GAMMIE

SINCE beating Cambridge United three weeks ago to line up an FA Cup third-round trip to Coventry City, Woking had lost two and drawn two of their four matches. This, just when Slough Town had blossomed in a four-match

sequence of victories. So a good all-round performance at Kingfield on Saturday helped to restore morale and keep Woking in distant pursuit of Kidderminster Harriers in the Vauxhall Conference — they lie 17 points a behind with three matches in

hand. Walker had a goal disallowed for offside. Foster saw Fiore clear his header off the line and Thompson's header was tipped over by Wilkerson before Woking took the lead after 29 minutes with another remarkable goal by Walker.

Running along the right-hand edge of the penalty area onto a ball lofted forward by Howard, Walker saw Wilkerson charging off his line. Pressure from a defender and the harder, slippery surface in the lee of the new stand could not put Walker off as he floated the ball into an empty net. It was a triumph of awareness and technical accomplishment.

Woking's second goal in the

worked. A neat touch from Hunter allowed Steele to pick out Walker on the far side of the area, and he hooked the ball into the middle first time for the on-rushing Taylor to Hunter's selection followed

the late arrival of Hay, his rival for the position alongside Walker, at Hayes on Boxing Day. He secred twice then and showed enough to keep his place against Covenry next Saturday.

WORDG (3-4-1-2) L Batty — T Howard, K Brown, S Foster — S Wye, S Thumpson, T Jones, R Taylor — S Steals — J Hunter, C Wester

Welter.
SLOUGH TOWN (3-5-2): P Williamson — G.
McGinnic R Smith, 3 Bearman — G. Smart.
A. Clement, S. Stepleton, M. Front, D.
Simpson (sub: G. Mennegh, 48thin) — G.
Abbott, M. Murphy (sub: D. Belt, 64).
Refereet: R. Conheed.

Reading.

maintain

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

OXFORD United held off a late rally by Reading in an entertaining Thames Valley derby - probably the last to be staged at the Manor Ground - and regained a place in the top six of the Nationwide League first division, a position Matt Elliott, their much-admired central defender, believes they can

"There's nothing to be scared of," he said. "We've shown we can beat the best teams; if we can improve our consistency away from home, it's a definite possibility." Elliott may not be there to see it, however. Oxford, with a new ground to finance, have received a number of sevenfigure bids for him, and the latest - £1.5 million from Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, who watched the match - has been rejected. Elliott's defensive qualities would doubtless be

missed, as well as his frequent forays upfield to lend his height and weight to attacks. Scoring goals was more of a problem than keeping them out for Oxford on Saturday. though. They could have won by a much wider margin, even if one of the two they did one of the two they did manage would have graced апу дате.

Receiving the ball on the Beauchamp profited from a rebound and saw his chance to ent inside before swerving a high, left-foot shot over the leaping Wright from outside the penalty area. The difference between the two sides was the bit of magic Beauchamp showed," Mick Gooding, the joint Reading player-manager, said.

True enough in the end but, in the meantime, there was Moody. A big centre forward of the old school, Moody has enioved his share of glory at the Manor Ground, but could do little right on Saturday. He shot wide, he inexplicably failed to make contact with a straightforward cross, he put a free header straight at Wright, and he volleyed wildly over the crossbar with only the goalkeeper in front of him and that was just in the first

"Goalscorers keep going back for more, even when they miss chances," Denis Smith, his manager, said, but then admitted: "I would have liked him to take some. It would have made the last few minutes easier." Among Moody's less-than-magnificent efforts after the break were a shot that began as an attempt to control a skidding pass, and a gentle sidefoot into Wright's arms when a goal looked certain. Undaunted, he unleashed a fine, long-range effort shortly before being substituted for Murphy who, inevitably, doubled Oxford's

Despite a porous defence hased on a creaky offside trap, Reading had always been in the game, and they pulled a goal back when Morley squeezed the ball in from a tight angle after Williams, who was prominent in most of their best moments, had shot across goal. For a time, one wondered if a dropped baton that had cost Oxford dear in a pre-match relay race between young supporters was to be an omen: but this time the home side hung on.

Stide During on.

ORFORD UNITED (4-4-2): P Whitehead —
I Robinson, M Effon, M Ford, S Marsh — J
Beaucharno, D Smith, M Grey, R Ford — P
Moody (sub: M Murphy, 62min), N Jerman,
RSADING (4-4-2): T Wright — M Booty, K
McPherson, A Barral, P Bodin — M
Williams, P-Hologrove (sub: M Gibres, 54), D
Cashay, M Gooding — L Nogen (sub: J
Ousns, 76), T Morley
Statemer C Wheel

McStay adds artist's touch to Celtic's grand design

IT WAS as if Paul McStay had never been away. The quick reactions and sure technique were all there as he brought a tricky question under control. No sooner had it been suggested that the Old Firm fixture on Thursday will be the most significant in years, than the Celtic captain was playing down its importance. Journalists may sigh over the lack of a provocative remark, but McStay's restraint is precious

The 4-2 victory over Dunfermline Athletic on Saturday was his first appearance since August 14. McStay was 17 when he made his debut and now, at 32, his body is suffering the consequences of that longevity. A troublesome ankle cannot be operated on any more and the midfield player is at the stage when a footballer must cope with his ailments rather than seek a cure for

All the same his wounds proved less severe than Dunermline might have hoped. In the first few seconds, McStay pounced to win the ball purging fears that he would now he a sedate figure who shied away from the maelstrom of the match. With great deliberation, Celtic have been reducing expectations about

their captain. In August, Tommy Burns. their manager, had said that McStay would have to be used sparingly in future and there has been gloom over the condition of the ankle, which has lost some of its flexibility. After such woe, one almost believed that Celtic were listing an invalid in their

ine-up. na throughout 86 minutes on the field therefore took the audience by pleasant surprise. If the limbs can be kept in tolerable condition, then his unimpaired poise will



Scottish commentary

strengthen Celtic. The side already contains several tal-ented individuals, but McStay could provide the strategic intelligence that has often been lacking.

For much of this season. Celtic had treated the midfield as if it were a bad neighbourhood that a wise man will rattle through as quickly as possible. McStay makes it the nerve centre of the match. A defeat of Dunfermline at Celtic Park, of course, can only be treated as sketchy evidence of the captain's condition.

Few opponents were good enough to interfere with McStay's plans and Burns can hardly be sure that the midfield player is ready for a brush with Rangers, where he could struggle to catch up with a stampeding game. The extent of McStay's comeback,

McStay: purged fears

McStay's vigour and stami-

however, will be assisted by his own desire to complete it. Anyone passing through the foyer of Celtic Park at lunchtime on Friday would have seen a heavy-set, middle-aged man with a stick in his hand. Bobby Murdoch was the great governing influence in mid-field for the Celtic side that won the European Cup in

He damaged an ankle badly while still a teenager and, in all the triumphant years that followed, could rarely tram fully. Murdoch's shrewdness and innate talent allowed him to surmount limitations, but it was also the sheer joy of participating in a superb side that allowed him to continue.

The analogy with McStay is not perfect. The Celtic captain can be glad that his injury has come much later in life and will receive far more sophisticated treatment than Murdoch's did. It is also true that McStay's side will never come close to the standards achieved in 1967. Nonetheless, there is a comparison to be In Jorge Cadete, Andreas Thom, Paolo di Canio, McStay, too, has team-mates

who make a midfield player eager for action. The captain has had to suffer a great deal of frustration in what ought to have been the peak years of his career. By the time he was 24. McStay, in 1989, had winner's medals from three league championships, three Scottish Cups and one League Cup. Since then, in a desolate period from which the club is beginning to recover, he has added just one Scottish Cup success. McStay has always been a devoted servant but now that Celtic have again found genuinely exciting players, selfishness may prove the greatest motive of all as he seeks the pleasure of a place



Jolly good Fellows stands up for the fall guys

there is something rather satisfying about getting an entire live sporting event under your belt before Grandstand has even started. There is something rather strange, however, when that event is skiing. No matter how long I watch. I still do not know quite what to make of a sport where the winner's first reaction on crossing the line is to rip off a ski and shove the logo into the face of an obliging cameraman.

There was lots of that in evidence over the weekend. with two women's slalom races from Semmering. in Austria, and a men's downhill from Bormio, in Italy, All three started on time, were completed over the full course and were very exciting.

At last, after the disappointments of Val d'Isère and Val Gardena, the Alpine ski season was doing exactly what the hmadeasters wanted it to du. The BBC celebrated ... by postponing Ski Sunday until Wednesday, when for reasons known only at Television Centre, it will be called Ski Sunday Special and will be mainly about ski-jumping.

Although the BBC managed to fit highlights of the first race from Semmering into Grandstand, this was Eurosport's chance to shine with live coverage of all four legs of the women's races and the men's downhill. The Paris-based satellite channel took it - shough not with total conviction.

There was no doubting the quality of the pictures provided by the host-broadcaster at either venue, although the Austrians had an easier time of it than their Balian colleagues, who faced the chall-ឧក capturing



MATTHEW BOND TV ACTION REPLAY

unprecedented number of high-speed fallers. But there was something uncharacteristically remote about the commentary being provided by David Goldstrom, in Austria, and Nick Fellows, in Italy.

They were certainly both there in spirit, but something a lack of camp gossip, perhaps — made me wonder if they were there in body as well. A number of skiers, Fellows told us, had chosen to spend Christmas with their families. I wondered whether a couple of commentators

As for the men's race, watchmight have very understandably chosen to spend the weekend in the easily reached

deep freeze of the Alps. I am hard pushed to hazard a guess. Only the lack of English-speaking skiers from Fellows's normally busy commentary box suggests that the Paris option is probably the right one. Mind you, given the attrition rate at Bormio, perhans nobody who spoke English had got to the bottom.

For one weekend it did not

comfort of Eurosport's Paris

studios rather than face the

is more serious than anything that could be solved by just having the experienced Goldstrom on site.

ing Luc Alphand and the ski gang struggling to stay upright on snow as hard as concrete was so thrilling it almost did not need a commentary. Nevertheless, Fellows was on hand to explain all about uphill and downhill skis, weight transfer and the importance of pre-jumping.

With the exception of Alberto Tomba's second runs in the slalom, the men's downhill remains the blue riband Alpine event and Fellows works immensely hard to turn faceless, rubber-clad competitors into real people. The pictures are beyond his control, but the sound is not.

matter. The image problem Normally, half the Canadian that women's skiing still faces team drop in for a chat and a team drop in for a chat and a spot of co-commentating, and a brace of "attacking Vikings" pop in to show off their multi-

> It is exactly what the sport needs. Rather than turning the skiers into high-speed advertising slogans (Deborah Compagnoni won yesterday's slalom not only with the traditional flourish of one ski but with a Seat logo taped to her helmen the skiing authorities and the host-broadcasters should concentrate on turning them back into people.

> That means better coverage of the warm-up and warmdown areas and more help for commentators with identification when bib-numbers are obscured. Of course, a good commentator will recognise the whole field by sight. Back home, I'd be happy with three.

German yacht wins Sydney-Hobart race

THE German maxi, Morning Glory, broke the 21-year record for the Sydney-to-Hobart race, one of yachting's most covered prizes, when she won line honours in the 630nautical mile race. The 80-foot maxi took 29min 46sec off the record of two days 14hr 36min 56sec set by Kialoa, the United States maxi, in 1975. "We lost it three times and then we won it. It was a great win," Hasso Plattner, the owner of Morning Glory, said after crossing the finish line. Morning Glory boasted some of the world's best sailors, including the America's Cup helmsman, Russell Coutts.

Plattner said: "We had a terrible start but we recovered from that. Then we ran into a southerly front and had to lower the mainsail because the leech line broke. At one stage we were ten miles behind the leader. Then, off Tasman Island, the wind started to die away." The pocket maxis, Exile and Foxtel Amazon, finished second and third, with the Australian yacht. Ausmaid, emerging as the leader on handicap after crossing the line in seventh place behind

Jaguars snatch victory

AMERICAN POOTBALL: A late 45-yard field goal by Mike Hollis bounced through off the upright to give the Jacksonville Jaguars a 30-27 victory over Buffalo Bills in the first National Football League play-off on Saturday. The victory sent Jacksonville into the divisional play-offs, earning them a game with either Denver or New England. For the Bills, the American Football Conference's dominant team this decade with four Super Bowl appearances and as many losses, it was their first play-off defeat at Buffalo's Rich Stadium.

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They could not handle Natrone Means, who rushed for 175 yards. Means had a 30-yard touchdown run, then a 62-yard run that led to a first field goal for Hollis. Though Bills struck back to go 27-20 ahead, Jacksonville produced a 65-yard drive to tie the game, before their winning goal.

Morgan must specialise

BOWLS:Betty Morgan, the Welsh indoor singles champion, is on the brink of winning all four national indoor championships—she has reached the semi-finals in singles. pairs, triples and fours - but fixture pressures mean that she will not be allowed to compete for more than one British Isles title when the championships begin in Perth in March. fit's a bit early to be talking about more than one title. because I could come crashing out of them all in the semi-finals," Morgan said yesterday. "But it does seem unfair that someone who wins more than one national title should be denied the chance of going on to compete in the equivalent British events."

Rusedski pulls out

TENNIS: Greg Rusedski, right, has been forced out of the Adelaide Open, starting today, because of injury, disrupting his planned build-up to the Australian Open. The British No 2 had wanted to use the Adelaide tournament to prepare for the first of the four grandslam events, but has withdrawn, suffering from blisters. His concern will be that his fitness returns in Open in Melbourne, starting on January 13.



Frustration for Hull

RUGBY LEAGUE: Hull were upset after yesterday's friendly against York was called off because a flu bug had laid low several York players. A Hull official said: "The entire saga is ridiculous and we are far from happy about the way things have been done." Stuart Horton, the York coach, said: "I couldn't raise a team — I had so many players reporting in sick, the numbers left didn't add up to a team." [] Oldham's plan to stage a nostalgic farewell match at Watersheddings against Swinton yesterday fell victim to the weather. It has been rearranged for next Sunday.

Doherty's mixed start

SNOOKER: Ken Doherty, the defending champion, suffered mixed fortunes as he began the defence of his Dr Martens European League title at the Diamond Centre, Irthlingborough. The 27-year-old from Dublin, overwhelmed John Parrott, of Liverpool, 74 in his opening contest. Against Peter Ebdon, however, Doherty recorded breaks of 120 and 139 but still ended a 5-3 loser. Doherty, the world No 7, had been scheduled to face Jimmy White in his second game but the match was postponed because of the recent death of White's mother.

Storm warning

ICE HOCKEY: Manchester Storm paid a heavy price for the number of defensive errors they made in their 7-4 defeat by Bracknell Bees on Saturday, for the result sent them to the bottom of the Superleague table. Sheffield Steelers joined Newcastle Cobras in second place after a 3-2 win over Nottingham Panthers, Nicky Chinn scoring the winning goal two minutes into overtime. It was the Panthers' first defeat in six games.

Croatia come through

TENNIS: Croatia, the No I seeds, beat Australia 2-1 on the first day of the Hopman Cup in Perth yesterday. Mark Philippoussis, of Australia, took 59 minutes to beat Goran Ivanisevic, the world No 4, 6-2, 6-3 to level the fie at 1-1 after Iva Majoli drew first blood for Croatia with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Nicole Bradtke. In the deciding doubles tie, the Croatia pair secured victory with a 7-5, 7-5 win. In the second group A match, United States beat France, the No 4 seeds, 2-1.

ATHLETICS

Brown set to miss trials for world championships

JON BROWN stole the show in the Bupa County Durham cross country on Saturday, completing the most impressive sequence of victories by a British athlete this year, but refused to acknowledge that he might win a medal at the world championships this winter. Paula Radcliffe was unable to make it a British double, finishing third, but was optimistic that a world medal is a definite prospect. More likely, perhaps, than if she had won at the weekend.

Brown, normally plainspeaking, and with a nononsense approach to his racing, turned riddler after his victory. After wins this month over Paul Tergat, the world champion, from Kenya, and in the European championships, he did not fall for the surging tactics of Daniel Komen, the International Amateur Athleric Federation distance runner of the year. Brown's even pace left him with the strength to pull away from the Kenyan in the closing stages to win by three seconds.

Having said that there would be enough Africans in shape to run 20min 30sec for 10.000 metres in Turin in March to keep him out of the world championship medals. Brown said that he would not be running in the British trials for the world track championships in Athens next summer. "There is something going to be happening at that time of year that puts two 10,000 metres races [the trials and the Athens final into a less important perspective," he said,

begging the question: "What?" He would not say, except that it was personal and nothing to do with running.

JOHN WHITE threw the

Budweiser League title race

wide open last night by sour-

ing 33 points to help the

Leopards to heat the joint

leaders. Sheffield Sharks,

89-74 in the Shelfield Arena. In

the process of gaining their

win, which moves them up to

the clutch of clubs on the

20-point mark, the Leopards

also carned an important psy-

chological advantage for next

month's Sainsbury's Classic

Cola final at the same venue.

by the Sharks six weeks ago.

the Leopurds set off deter-

mined to avenge that reverse.

Within two minutes they had

Narrowly beaten at home

This means that Europe's No 1 men's distance runner of 1996 will be absent from the British world championship trials for both cross country and track. While there can be no doubt that he will be picked for Turin, the British Athletic Federation operates a policy of invisting that athletes compete in their track trials.

The move towards younger. more in-touch selectors for



Brown: trials riddle

cross country -- David Clarke. Eamonn Martin and Alison Wyeth among them - sug-gests that Brown and Raddiffe will be picked for Turin. regardless of the trials. Radcliffe, normally loyal to the trials, said that she wanted to try a different approach to the world championships this year after a series of winter setbacks since she won the world junior title in 1992. This will mean training at altitude in Alhuquerque at a time that wincides with the trials.

It is numbing to think that Rudcliffe, who broke Zola Budd's British 5,000 metres record last summer and was

fifth. has never finished higher than eighteenth in the world cross-country event in her four years as a senior. Each time, either illness or injury has intervened. Now recovered from the knee trouble that restricted her training until four weeks ago, she is hopeful that building to a peak over four months will prove more successful than attempting to hold the early-season form reflected by her past wins in

close to an Olympic medal in

"My problem is that I have been in shape at this time of year and have not been able to sustain it." she said. "That is why, this year, it may be a good thing that I have been set back." She recalled how, in the season that she won her junior world title, she had a "terrible" run in Durham. "I turned it around to be in the right shape in March," she recalled.

Radcliffe described her latperformance as "OK Gete Wami, the world champion. from Ethiopia, and Elena Fidatov, a Romanian who finished close behind her in the Olympic final, proved stronger on the run-in. "I struggled on the hills because i am not as strong as i normally am at this time of

year." Radcliffe said. Next season, this popular event may have to move and organisers are considering alternatives, possibly switching to another part of the country. County Durham's sponsorship is at an end, though the City of Durham remains committed, as does Bupa. However, with four years of a five-year television deal with the BBC still to run, it is not on its

BASKETBALL

Leopards take their revenge

By NICHOLAS HARLING

collected the first six points and it was not until Voise Winters opened the Sheffield reply that the home side started in make any real impression.

Even so, it took them until 38 seconds from the end of the first quarter before they took the lead for the first time through Winters. At this stage the fift oin American was irresistable and he had scored 14 of his side's points and, by half-time when the Sheffield lead was still intact at 45-30. Winters had collected 19

There was no him then of the havoe that White might cause. Marked astutely by Chris Finch, he had been limited to eight points before he cut loose soon after the start

of the third quarter. The Sharks had assembled an earlier 10-0 surge but they were upstaged by the Loop-ards, especially White, who bit four three-pointers in an 18-2 sequence. From 49-39 adrift. the Leopards were suddenly in front at 57-51, a lead they never looked like losing. The aggressive Robert Youngblood was fouled out with six minutes to go but the London side made light of that handicap, all the mure so when Winters went too with 90 seconds left.

steep and icy Stelvio piste, bathed alternately in bright sunshine and deep shade through the trees.

Kristian

LUC ALPHAND, surprising himself with his determination, won his second World Cup downhill of the season yesterday on a treacherous piste in Bormio, Italy, that claimed several rivals. Alphand, winner of the men's World Cup downhill title for the past two seasons. clocked 2min 0.5(sec down the

"it's a great way to finish the war." said the 31-year-old Frenchman, who has now win eight World Cup races. William Besse was second in 2min 00.72sec to become the first Swiss downhill skier this season to step on the pudium. Alphand's main rival after four downhills, was third in 2min 01.18sec and the first Italian on the podium in Bormio since the resort first

hosted a race in 1993. Five of the first eight men on the starting list failed to make the finish. The race organisers put ertra water on the higher

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF turns overnight to harden the

Compagnoni smiles on the winner's podium after gaining her first World Cup win

Determined Alphand leaves

rivals sprawling in his wake

piste and hold it together, and many of the racers found difficulty controlling their skis. Hans Knauss, the overall World Cup leader, starting first, almost fell at the Carcentina bend when his skis veered away from under his body, and retired halfway

down the hill Brian Stemmle, of Canada. skied out at the top. Peter

Runggaldier, of Italy, went the same way, Patrick Ortlieb, the world champion, did not start due to a stomach bug and Bruno Kernen, of Switzerland,

Meanwhile, in the women's World Cup statom in Semmering. Austria. Deborah Compagnoni, of Italy, scored the first World Cup win of her career. Two near-perfect runs down an icy piste earned her victory by more than a second. Compagnoni, who has won Olympics gold medals in giant

first two slatoms of the season. improved three positions in the second run to snatch third place in Imin 44.65sec. Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden who won the slaiom on Saturday to take the overall World Cup lead, lost her chance for a

double victory when she near-

sialom and Super-G, kept her

composure in temperatures of -17C to win both runs for a

Patricia Chauvet, of France,

profited from the failure of Elfi

Eder, of Austria, to complete

the 62-gate second run, im-

proving one place to overall second in lmin 43,99sec. Clau-

dia Riegler, the Austrian-born

New Zealander, winner of the

total time of Imin 42.94sec.

ly missed a gate in the first Nevertheless, she scored the fastest time, 50.35sec, on the second run to take fourth place in the race and widened her lead in the overall standings over Katja Seizinger, of Germany, who did not compete in either of this weekend's

slalom events.

Snow reports, page 29

rowing

Leander move in for Jahrling's signature

IVOR LLOYD, the captain of Leander Club, the home of Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, was a happy man this weekend (Mike Rosewell writes) Leander are negotialing the coaching services of Harald Jahrling, the east German, who coached the Australian pair who pushed Redgraye and Pinsent so hard for their gold medal in

Jahrling, a double Olympic gold medal-winner himself in coxed pairs for Germany in Montreal and Moscow, has

spent the past seven years as chief coach at the New South Wales Australian institute of Leander had not advertised

for a coach and Lloyd admitted that Jahrling was headhunted, adding: "He was one of my primary targets." Jahrling's salary will be

funded by a grant, valued at £140,000 over four years, from the Foundation of Sports and Arts, and backed by Leander Club itself. It is hoped that his contract will start from

By EDWARD GORNAN land towards Wellington, with fore-SAILING CORRESPUNDENT casters predicting winds gusting 70 to 90 knots and kicking up a strong THE last thing most of the BT Global easterly swell. All the crews have Challenge yachts or their crews need prepared to deal with extreme condiis a severe storm just as they man the tions and race organisers were end of a tough second leg across the keeping a close watch on the storm's Southern Ocean to Wellington.

which has caused rig damage to six Early today, through, there was a strong likelihood that much of the fleet would encounter storm conditions from the tail-end of Hurricane Fergus, as they head in towards their landfall in New Zealand.

Now classed as a tropical storm, what is left of Fergus was moving down the North Island from Audi-

On Courtailds International, which is satugoling along in thirteenth position, 630 miles adrift of the leader, there was apprehension about what might be in store. The saying the 'calm before the storm' appears to be very appropriate, as we drift slowly along in very little wind, with Hurricane Fergus forecast to arrive during Monday, directly in our path for Wellington. It would

Global Challenge fleet goes onto storm-force alert appear the Southern Ocean is full of surprises and its unique quality is the speed at which the weather changes." the crew reported. The finish itself was turning into

SAILING: CREWS PREPARE FOR LASHING FROM TAIL OF HURRICANE FERGUS AS SECOND LEG NEARS END

something of a replay of the

BT Challenge chart

ganisingly slow conclusion to the first leg into Rio de Janeiro. Mike Golding, on Group 4. still looked likely to win the leg but his lead was being eaten away by Andy Hindley, on Sare The Children, in second

For the past few days, Golding has

maintained an advantage of around 60 miles over Hindley but with just 712 miles left to sail to the line, he was making just 0.6 knots after being caught under the lee of the land in the Cook Strait, which divides the North from the South Island. Hindley was still doing 9.4 knots out at sea and

had reduced the deficit to 40 miles, Golding's likely victory in the leg. however, gives him a strong overall position in the race, after his win in the first leg. He has also reinforced the all-important psychological edge he has enjoyed over his fellow skippers from before the start.

After Save The Children, there is a gap of around 160 miles to Toshiba Wave Warrior in third place and a

fourth. There is then a tight battle still going on between Global Teamwork, Commercial Union and Pause To Remember for fifth, with the three boats early today ten miles apart in terms of their distance to the finish. The crew on Concert is getting

bored with listening to their engine. It days after the dismasting which put them out of the leg. They were expecting to arrive at the Chatham Islands, about 420 miles east of Wellington, some time tomorrow. Assuming Fergus is kind to them. they are then planning to refuel and head straight for Wellington, where they hope to arrive about three days



Lesson for Atherton in Ambrose's renaissance

Michael Atherium and Curtly Ambrose are not readily apparent but, in these past few weeks, they have had a surprising amount in com-mon. For years, their respec-tive teams have relied upon them for inspiration, the extent of the dependence only obvious when the inspiration

runs chronically short. The fact that England generally prosper when Atherton makes runs is endorsed by the value every opposing team places upon his wicket, even when he is in demonstrably poor form. And, while it might seem more logical to compare him with Brian Lara, the truth is that the best indicator of West Indian vibrancy has long been the level of spring in Ambrose's knees and the degree of animation.

in his expressive eyes. Atherton will be profoundly

his touring England team but the health of his own batting. Despite the relative recovery yesterday, bulletins on both have been uniformly depressing. Consolation is at hand, however, through the aston-ishing renaissance of Am-brose and West Indies, a compelling example of how quickly the fortunes of cricket-

ers can be transformed. Three weeks ago today. I left Australia believing that the five-Test series for the Frank Worrell Trophy had effectively been decided in two games. West Indies had not only been outplayed and defeated in both the initial Tests, their spirit and stature had been drained to a level from which early recovery seemed inconceivable.

Early on Boxing Day morning, I had a wake-up call from an Australian journalist, lamenting a story he wished he

had not written. "Who would have been idiot enough to write off Curtly Ambrose?" he mocked himself. "Only me." Ambrose, he said, had taken five chean wickets on the first day in Melbourne and West Indies were back in business.

with his regrets. Anyone who observed the first two Tests would have shared his suspicious as Ambrose took three extravagantly expensive wick-ets, bowling without rhythm or self-belief. We have seen his monumental sulks before, but this one looked terminal and, without him, West Indies could generate no steam, no fire, no momentum. But Ambrose, though

gloweringly unapproachable to all but his inner circle, is an intensely proud man. He detested the jibes that he was only seeing out his time with a

captain, has not passed fifty in

Test cricket for a year, and

getting the shape and balance of the side right is proving

Matthew Havden and Jus

tin Langer, the left-handers brought in to bat at Nos 2 and

3, made ducks on Saturday.

Hayden, leaving alone a

straight ball from Ambrose, was bowled and Langer, at-

tempting to hook the bowler.

offered a looping slip catch off his body and the back of the

bat to Carl Hooper. Having

dropped Ricky Ponting and

Michael Bevan to accommo-

date them, they must now

ponder whether to persist with

these unproven batsmen at

It still seems extraordinary

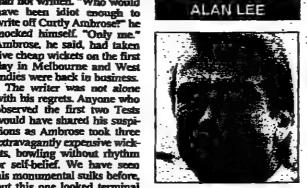
to English eyes that Michael

Slater, the shot-making open-

er, has fallen from favour. His

troublescent

Adelaide.



Test match Commentary

told there he would take ten wickets in the next Test and failed by only one to keep his promise. Staggeringly, the Melbourne Test was won inside three days, its abiding memories the high-kicking approach and high-energy celebrations of a giant

Atherton can be as deep and private as Ambrose but he is still more inscrutable when troubled by failing form. Up to now, he has always managed to put things right when it mattered, making runs in Test cricket even when looking cluciess in lesser contests But 1996 was not a good year for him and there has been no comfort whatever from the

His 16 Test innings this year have produced 469 runs at an average barely above 30. He has not reached 50 in the last seven of those innings and, against the newest and humblest of Test nations, he has totalled 34 runs in two maiches.

The cares of captaincy make it no easier for bim. His and the neurotic utterances of his confidant and accomplice, stereotypical. the coach, David Lloyd, have make matters worse we now have the sideshow of lan

ton and Lloyd with an honorary input of advice, complaining in a Sunday newspaper that he had not been consulted on selection and proclaiming in effect, that he should be running the show. Laugh it off though he may, this was hardly what a beleaguered captain needs.

All might look so much rosier, however, if only Atherton could make a decent score. It scarcely looks likely right now, for his feet are as reluctant to move to his fa-Vourite tune as were Ambrose's in Sydney a month ago. He is pushing and pokfrom a crease-bound pose

practice. His dismissal, for one, on Saturday evening was

There will, inevitably, be claims that he is burnt out, that his famed powers of concentration are eroded beyond repair and that he should be replaced — as a batsman and, by conse-quence, as captain. He knows enough to expect all this; he should also know enough to be comforted by the experiences of Ambrose, by the knowledge that it can take only one match to restore rhythm and banish the blues.

It would not be in character for Atherton to imitate Ambrose by promising his players that he will make a doublecentury in England's next Test match, four weeks from now in Auckland. But he should at least remind himself that, like his old West Indian adversary, he has the ability and the

Reformers increase pressure on **England** to perform

FROM SIMON WILDE IN HAMARE

ENGLISH cricket is fighting battles on two fronts in Zimbabwe. One is for its reputation on the field; the other is for its public image. A losing national side has remained financially durable beyond expecremain so when it is perceived to be surrounded by controversy and confusion, is

In Bulawayo last Sunday, David Lloyd, the England coach, was involved in a heated exchange of words with a local cricket official directly after the end of the tense first Test match and yesterday Lloyd was obliged to deny a Sunday newspaper report of an alleged rift with lan Botham, who is acting informally as a technical adviser to England's bowlers.

At other times, such inci-dents might not have created a stir but the timing now is unfortunate because, among the spectators to fly into Harare for the second Test match, were Tim Lamb and Lord MacLaurin, recently appointed chief executive and chairman respectively of the Test and County Cricket Board. Both are intent on defending the game's image in a competitive marketplace and anxious that nothing should happen to harm it.

Thus, although the "Lloyd affair" was deemed closed before he arrived on Boxing Day, Lamb quickly made it his business to speak to the England coach about the Bulawayo incident. Lamb would not disclose details yesterday of their meeting, except to say that he had taken "appropriate action". MacLaurin, who arrived on Saturday, was quick to point out: "Public relations and the way we present ourselves is of the

utmost importance." MacLaurin has been hailed as the man who can bring English cricket thoroughly up to date. "We have got to get the England team right," he said. "Everthing flows from that. We cannot look at the recent progress of the England side and say these things are cyclical. There are fundamental things wrong."

CRICKET

West Indies find enough pride to postpone era's end

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE (third day of five): West Indies beat Austra-

SO, NOW we know: West Indies are not yet a spent force. By winning the third Test match in Melbourne by six wickets, with two days to spare, they reminded everybody that, though their powers have diminished, they still retain their pride. With two Tests to play, at Adelaide and Perth, they could yet win the series and regain the Frank Worrell Trophy that they ceded to Australia in the Caribbe-

> Courtney Walsh, their captain, will remind his players that they went to Adelaide onedown four years ago, won there by one run and vanquished Australia on a fast pitch in Perth. Curtly Ambrose may chime in with a few thoughts of his own for he did most of the vanquishing that time on his way to 33 wickets, a record tally by a West Indies bowler in an Australian-series. Ambrose was again the match-winner on a bouncy pitch at the MCG, taking five wickets on the first day and

another four on Saturday to finish with match figures of nine for 72. His bowling was altogether too much for Australia, who surrendered their second innings for 122, leaving West Indies to get 87 for victory. Despite the loss of three early wickets, including that of Brian Lara to the excellent Glenn McGrath, they were safely home by

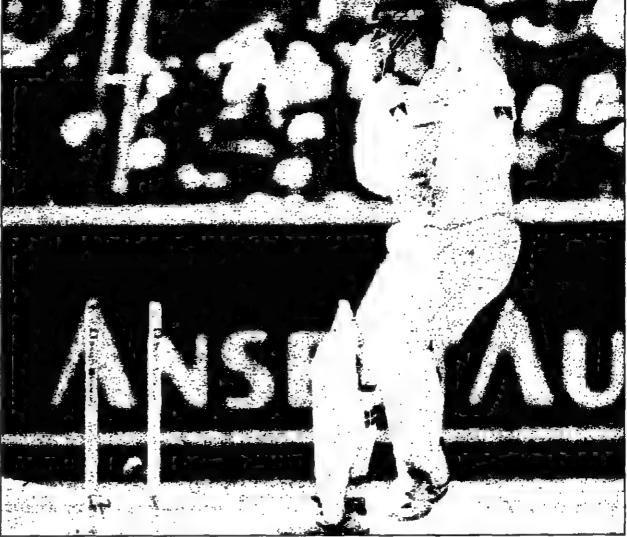
Lara's form is the main area of concern as West Indies approach Adelaide. Ambrose has three weeks in which to nurse a sore groin, but the. team's star batsman is looking increasingly exposed. He batted here at No 4, behind Shivnarine Chanderpaul, and has now made only 77 runs in this series. On Saturday he slashed McGrath to point the fifth time the howler has

dismissed him in this series. For once, however, it is the Australians who must take stock before the Tests resume. They have become such a powerful team in recent years, with an abundance of talented young players, that this failure has concentrated a few minds.

demotion, coupled with the freak knee injury to Matthew Elliott, has left the Australians vulnerable at the top of the Boon's retirement has left a gap at No 3 that Ponting, for all his promise, has not filled. Perhaps it was asking too much of a man just turned 22 Mark Taylor, an outstanding to match up to such high expectations. Whatever, they are in a bit of a pickle.

The bowling needs patching up, too. Jason Gillespie tore an intercostal muscle on his left side on the second day, and will be out of action for up to six weeks. Damien Fleming has been injured and Michael Kasprowicz has been dropped, so there may be a summons for Andrew Bichel, who has been among the wickets for Oueensland in the Sheffield Shield and has been called up - along with Stuart Law - for the next round of one-day matches.

Through injury, loss of form and selectorial wavering, the team has been disturbed and, with a tour of South Africa prefacing the one to England in May, there are important



Steve Waugh, so often the Australia saviour, is bowled by Benjamin for 37 to end the innings on Saturday

Second Immos Second Immige
M L Hayden to Ambrose ...
This A Yaylor of Hooper to Warsh ...
J L Langer of Hooper to Ambrose ...
M E Waugh to Bentamin ...
S R Waugh to Bentamin ...
S R Waugh to Bentamin ...
S R Waugh to Bentamin ...
I A Heaty to Bentamin ...
P R Rediet tow to Bentamin ...
J N Gelespe tow to Ambrose ...
J N Gelespe tow to Ambrose ...
J N Gelespe tow to Ambrose ...
G D McGrath not out ...

Form 674 w 1 rb 111

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-8, 3-28, 4-47, 5-84, 6-85, 7-78, 8-107, 9-173. BOWLING Ambrose 124-17-4; Bishop 10-2-25-0; Benjamin 12-5-5-34-3; Walen

Extraor (25 4, w 1, nb 11)

CEL Ambrose b Warne KCG Benjumin b Retitel CA Walah c M E Waugh b War 80WLpK3. McGrath 30-11-50-5; Retfiel 29-6-76-1; Warne 28,1-3-72-3; Gillespie 3-2-5-0; Blawett 9-3-19-0; S R Waugh 10-6-

S L Compbell o Heaty b McGrath
R G Semuels the b McGrath
S Chanderpaul b Reither
B C Lans o Hayden b McGrath
L Hoopen not out
J C Ademirnot out

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-25, 3-52, 4-82. BOWLING: McSmith (+)-41-3; Remit (+2-16-1; Warne 1-0-17-0; Blanct 2:5-0-13-0; Misn of the metals C E L Ambrose.

Steve Waugh cannot keep or bailing them out with his runs, and McGrath and Warne are being forced to bear an intolerable load with the ball. McGrath took his 100th

Test wicket when he had Samuels leg-before (rather fortimately, it must be said, since he delivered the ball wide, from round the wicket, and two stumps were visible at the moment of impact) and he has taken only 23 games to get them. That is the record of a formidable bowler, but even the best bowlers need support and, apart from Reiffel, he lacks a regular mate.

West Indies, meanwhile, can regroup in the one-day round-robin series which also involves Pakistan, who beat Australia A in Sydney on Saturday. Had they lost in Melbourne, it would have been the end of an era. By Perth, it still might be but, for the time being, thanks to Ambrose, the series remains within their reach.

PARTIALLY SIGHTED. a missing limb...

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Fired-up Donald makes short work of fragile India batting

SUPERB fast bowling from bowled out in 34.1 overs.

Allan Donald paved the way for a comprehensive South Shaun Pollock, who took three Africa victory over India, who made just 66 in their second innings in the first Test match at Kingsmead on Saturday.

South Africa won by 328 runs after Donald, who took five for 40 in India's first innings, rocked the India top order on the third day with a hostile opening spell of three for ten in six overs.

Generating extreme pace on a pitch still offering plenty of bounce, Donald, 30, finished with second-innings figures of four for 14 as India were for 25, and Lance Klusener, who returned figures of two

Rahul Dravid, batting confidently at No 6 for an unbeaten ensured that India surpassed their lowest Test total of 42 achieved against England at Lord's in 1974.

Earlier, India had been set an improbable victory target of 395 after South Africa were bowled out for 259 in their second innings shortly before hınch. Brian McMillan fin-

S-OREBOSES CHEST STREET

A C Hudson & Second Invitrgs
A C Hudson & Ternbuller in Kumble
G Kristen & Dreved b Prassed
A M Bacher & Ternbuller in Kumble
J Cultina & Mongla b Prassed
W J Crome & Mongla b Prassed
H Gabbs Dev b Synaeth
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V S Rathore o Richardson to Cornello
W V Remen to Donald
W V Remen to Donald
S C Genguly to Donald
S R Tendulker o Kusten to Pollock
M Adviguation or Kusten to Pollock
M R S Drawfor not cut
TN R Mongia o Cornigo to Kustener
A Kumble o Hudson to Kustener
J Sineth nun cut
D Johnson o Klustere to Pollock
B K V Prasad o Hudson to Donald
Extree 87 2 7th 38

74 for the last wicket with Donald, who made 26: Venkatesh Prasad took five for 93 to finish with match figures of ten for 153.

Donald then rocked the India top order with his fiery opening burst to leave them reeling at seven for three. From that point, there was no way back for India "On our side, it was a case of

bad batting — we should have applied ourselves a lot more and showed more determination," Sachin Tendulkar, the India captain, who made four, said. "But I think it was basically a bowlers' wicket, although batting did get better if the batsmen stayed there for a while without taking any Hansie Cronje, the South

Africa captain, said: "What helped us was that we had four players who have a sound back-foot technique in Andrew Hudson, Adam Bacher, Brian McMillan and Shaun Pollock. I think we also had a slight advantage with our four fast bowlers compared to their two. If Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock needed a rest. we always had Lance Klusener and Brian McMillan/to bring on."

Draw seals series for under-19s

ENGLAND clinched the under-19 series against Paki-stan after the third international petered out into a draw in Lahore yesterday. Ben Hollioake, who proved so important with bat and hall in the first innings, was again the pick of the England players.
The match had seemed well poised overnight with Paki-

stan 132 for five, but tight

bowling denied them the quick runs they needed to press for victory and England inished the series 1-0 winners. Hollioake ended with three for 35 from 25 overs. Gareth Batty, of Yorkshire, with three for 51 from 22 overs, was also economical. Hassan Raza's innings of 69 ensured the home side were never in danger of losing the match, though. Pakistan finally de-

Abdul Razzaq sent- back Stephen Peters for seven and later dismissed David Sales (12) and Andrew Flintoff (16) to end with three for 33. The fifth-wicket pair, David Nash and Hollioake, held firm as the same drifted to its inevitable conclusion with England closing on 64 for four.

clared at 207 for nine, leaving England needing 201 from 37



RUGBY UNION: PRESSURE ON PLAYERS MOUNTS AS WEEKEND POSTPONEMENTS EXTEND OVERCROWDED SEASON

Pienaar is ready for cold plunge at Bath

BY BRYAN STILES

THE chill factor has caught up with Francois Pienaar, the captain who inspired South Africa to World Cup triumph last year. First the South Africa selectors gave him the cold shoulder and dropped him, then wintry weather ruined the start of his great English adventure on Saturday, when he was scheduled to make his debut for Saracens against Orrell in the Courage Clubs Cham-

pionship. While the match will now have to be played in midweek. Pienaar's concern is more immediate. He claims not to have played for two months and has had only weatherhampered training with his new team-mates as preparation for his first match in England, which will now be on Saturday, away to Bath.
"I wish I could have had a

run before meeting them." he said with a grin. It is the kind of challenge that Pienaar thrives on though, and Bath are one of the quartet of clubs the others are Leicester. Harlequins and Wasps - that Saracens aim to supersede at the top of the English pecking

Pienaar regards his signing for Saracens as the start of a new "adventure" for him and Nerine, his wife of ten months. "In South Africa. people take a year off after university to tour Europe," he said. "We are going to do that now ... and see shows and

rock shows in London.' He dismissed stories that he had joined Saracens purely for his pay, reputed to be £200,000 a season. "I still had 18 months of my contract to run in South Africa." he said. "I could have stayed there and been a wealthy man, but I have other goals. One was to

Bleak midwinter exposes fixture flaws

RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

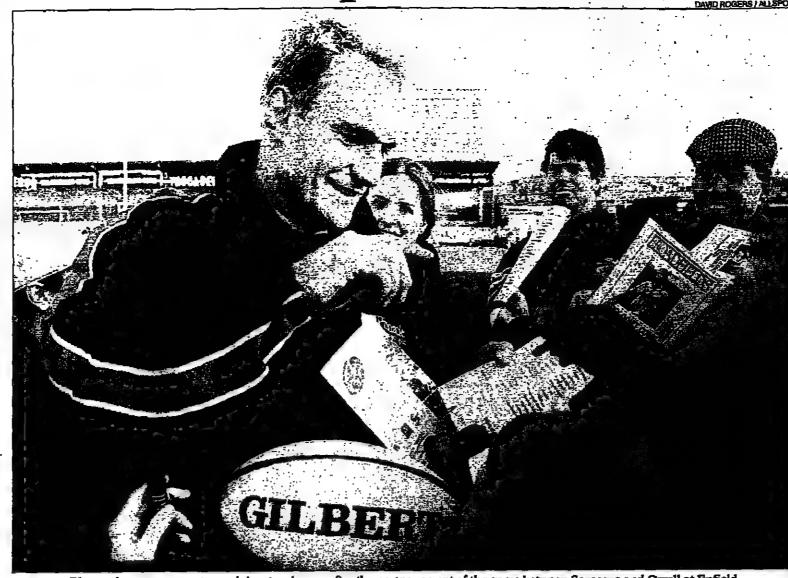
THERE is a dreadful irony in the fact that Nigel Wray, the principal investor in Saracens, has been lamenting the absence of regular fixtures for his patrons at Enfield in the past two months. Given five weekends of solid club rugby. Sod's Law dictates that Saracens should be among the weekend weather casualties.

criticise a fixture-making policy that left supporters bereft of quality rugby. In his own phrase, the shop cannot be closed down when an outside agency - in this case, the Rugby Football Union - decides that representative rugby should be the norm. But, on Saturday, to the chagrin of all concerned. François Pienaar's introduction to English rugby was frosted off less than 30 minutes before the kick-off against Orrell was due.

Wray was quite right to

Yesterday, the same situation arose at Bristol and Sale: in the case of Bristol's league match with Gloucester, the storm cones were hoisted when the football match between Bristol Rovers and Millwall, due to be played at the Memorial Ground on Saturday, was postponed. Ed Morrison, the international nee, inspected the pitch yesterday morning and decided the surface was too hard, a decision which gave supporters the chance to stay at home. Unhappily, that was not the

case at either Entield on Saturday or Sale yesterday. Thousands turned up for both games at clubs hoping that their expensive pitch-covers would ensure the game went ahead. No call was made for a local referee of appropriate stature to make an early inspection but, when Tony Spreadbury arrived at Enfield, he felt there was little option. "My back would have been on the line if I had insisted on playing," he said. "All referees are now fully aware of the over-riding im-



Plenaar keeps young autograph-hunters happy after the postponement of the game between Saracens and Orrell at Enfield

So are Saracens, It was on their ground that Ian Tucker, the Oxford University student. met the playing accident that caused his death in October. The courts have made referees aware of what can happen if regulations are ignored, after the Ben Smoldon case, and bad weather creates one more concern for player safety. At least John Pearson, at Sale, where Bath were the visitors. did not have to emulate

spective captains agreed at 12.45pm that the pitch was too dangerous.

Saracens' embarrassment. as they made refunds to disgruntled spectators, may have been increased by the fact that matches in London, at Richmond, Harlequins, London Irish and Wasps, went ahead. But this is a situation which the professional football clubs have faced for years and for which

There is certain to be a cluttered end to this season. just when players selected to tour with the British Isles are hoping to rest and when vital promotion and relegation issues are being decided. Only three first-division clubs have played all ten scheduled matches and there may well be more bad weather to come.

Some clubs may be able to play on February 22, so long as they are not involved in the Pilkington Cup quarter-finals that day, but a full league programme is already scheduled for March 29, the date of the cup semi-finals. The league season does not end until May 3 but the season itself drags on to May 17, with the Sanyo Cup match between the English club champions and a world XV, so notionally matches could be played on May 10 (Cup Final day) or May 17, by which time the

Midweek games seem inevitable but the gates they will attract are unlikely to match when games are re-arranged. right of appeal and nothing is

those at weekends, so clubs who have already lost revenue at overnight stays may lose more Discussions will take place today over suitable dates and clubs will be instructed when postponed league games should be played; they have the

Richmond power play keeps them on song for promotion



Scott Quinnell: two tries

Coventry......10 BY NICOLAS ANDREWS

HALFWAY through the season and, while the Richmond public address system is still confining its use of Roy Orbison's it's Over to celebrations of Simon Mason's goal-kicking, it will surely not be long before the sentiments apply equally accurately to the team's inexorable pursuit of promotion. Richmond are the only unbeaten team in the top three divisions of the Courage Clubs Championship.

Two more victories - away to Rotherham and at home to Bedford - and it will take a Devon Loch-style stumble down the home straight to keep Ashley Levett's all-stars out of "We've got a long way to go and there are 20 points still to play for," John Kingston, the Richmond director of rugby, said after this five-tryvictory at the Athletic Ground on Saturday, Indeed, Coventry have not given up the chase and Derek Eves. their player-coach, predicts "a few funny results" before the season's end. But, if anything, it is the second

promotion place that is up for grabs. The perception has been that the Rugby Football Union moved the goalposts once again when announc-ing recently that there would be no play-offs, that two teams would go up and four come down. However, the news came as no surprise to Richmond. The club had been pressing for the confirmation of a decision first agreed by the RFU last May. Subsequent confusion caused by the desire of some to give Gloucester, Bristol or whoever another chance to avoid the drop was no more than that -.unnecessary confusion.

Whatever, the victory on Saturday was a key element in Richmond's promotion strategy. Coventry surprised a lot of people, if not themselves, when they drew at Coundon Road on the season's opening day. Richmond were actually rather fortunate to escape with a point, but they have made no such mistakes since.

We are a totally different side now," Kingston said. Certainly, he and his staff have created a far more coherent and intimidating force, in attack and defence. The defence was the most pleasing thing today," Kingston said. "We tackled them out of the game."

It was the controlled aggression that Ben Clarke and the Quinnells brought to the Richmond pack, and

the pace and power of Bateman, Fallon et al behind them, that did for Coventry. The Richmond threequarters attacked from deep, the recycling was swift, the passing sure.

Tries in the 31st and 33rd minutes warmed the crowd and put Coventry on the back foot after a bright start, in which Harris kicked a dropped goal. Clarke went over from a forward drive, then Brown outstripped the defence from halfway.

The irrepressible Eves spurred his

men forward after the break but Boyd's touchdown at the end of another move begun deep in Richmond territory ensured that it would be to no avail. Smallwood was the scorer of a deserved Coventry try, but two tries for the rampaging Scott Quinnell added lustre to the Rich-

mond scoreline. Coventry are a very similar side to the one that started the season. In fact, all 15 players who appeared that day were on duty again on Saturday and this consistency is one factor in a season of considerable progress.

"We have come a long way in a short time." Eves said. Today, we dropped the ball too often, and you can't do that against the best, but we have now got the money in place to buy. We are still six or seven months behind Richmond, but we have got a lot of spirit and we will be back."

SCORERS: Richmond: Tries: S Quinnel (2), Clarke.
SCORERS: Richmond: Tries: S Quinnel (2), Clarke.
Brown, Boyd. Conversions: Meson (4) Penathy
speak: Mason: (2), Conventry: Tryc. Smallwood
Conversion: Hartle Dropped goal: Hartle.
RICHMOND: S Mason: J Falion. A Bassman, M
Hutton, S Brown: A Boyd. A Moore: C Clark, B Moore,
O Crompton, B Clarks, C Quinnell, R West, A Vander,
S Quarnell Brown replaced by B Short (Strikt).
COVENTRY: W Kiltord, D John. M Gafagher, R
Robrason. A Smallscod: J Hartleria, A Descon: R
Hardwick, D Addieton, M Crane, L. Crofts, D
Grewoock, A Bischmore, D Evell, J Petien. Crofts
replaced by J Horrotin (53)

Logan sets Glasgow on way to district showdown

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Scottish Borders24

By a Correspondent

GLASGOW clinched their place in the 1997-98 European Cup and took a big step towards lifting their first district title in seven years with a convincing win over Scottish Borders in the first match of a double-header at Murrayfield

yesterday. Borders could not complain about their share of possession in the first half and had the lion's share of territorial advantage, too. Glasgow, however, showed commendable discipline in defence, to the extent that Gary Parker's first penalty kick at goal came on the stroke of half-time.

By then Glasgow, demonstrating a superior cutting edge, had almost put the game beyond reach with three tries. For the third successive week at Murrayfield, Kenny Logan proved the inspiration. with a 40-metre run after his side had taken a quick penalty close to halfway. Their second try owed almost everything to sleight of hand, in particular from Fergus Wallace, their flanker, who gave James Craig just enough room to nip in at the corner.

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Calum MacGregor converted both well and made it three out of three two minutes before the break after David McLeish, at No 8, picked up and drove over from a fivemetre scrummage.
Parker's penalty goal go

Borders on the scoreboard and two more successful strikes raised their hopes of a revival. After MacGregor's first penalty success. Bryan Redpath's half-break from a close-range scrum put Stewart Bennet, the flanker, in for his side's first try. However, Craig's second try, when he used his pace to latch on to a clever chip by Andy Garry, re-established a cushion for

Glasgow. The result was put out of sight with ten minutes to go by another excellent piece of work from Garry. He received the ball six metres out, committed the defence, then worked the ball clear to release Logan.

Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain last season, en joyed a satisfactory comeback at representative level as Caledonia set up a title decider against Glasgow next week with a 31-13 victory over Edinburgh in the second

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Swansea suspend Newport revival

BY MARK SOUSTER

IT WAS not that long ago that David Watkins, the Newport chairman, said he would never attempt to buy success or pay his players. For one thing, Newport could not afford it: for another. Watkins felt that pride in the club jersey should be motivation enough. How times have changed, and how Newport have been forced to move with them.

Now the club is to appoint a full-time director of rugby and a new chief executive: there is talk of turning into a limited company and even going publie to finance the future. Gareth Rees has come and gone but Rod Snow, another Canada international, has arrived at Rodney Parade. Mix in Jan Machacek, a Czech international, and a couple of Australians, and Newport's future looks distinctly healthier.

However, despite their recent revival. Newport on Saturday were no match for a Swansea side that contained 11 internationals. Even though the All Whites have found it difficult to reproduce their free-wheeling antics away from St Helen's, two more bonus points were pouched at Rodney Parade to keep them top of the Welsh League first

Leading 27-10 at half-time, but for Arwel Thomas's dreadful place kicking - he converted only one of eight kicks at goal - Swansea would have been out of sight. They had been content to keep the game tight, with their forwards contributing seven tries in all, and only occasionally did their

backs offer glimpses of their pace and ability. Newport's never did, primarily because the possession they won was immediately driven back to repeatedly turned them over.

Where Swansea really had the aces was in their international back row of Reynolds. Paul Moriarty and Charvis. Comfortable with the ball in hand, they combined well as a unit and Charvis, who will surely add to his two caps in the five nations' championship, was a prominent figure in many of Swansea's brighter moments. He created Alan Harris's try and galloped 40 metres for his own score through a defence which parted invitingly for him.

Reynolds it was who stopped Newport's threatened comeback. His brave tackle on Chris Smith prevented a certain try after Nicky Lloyd had broken from his own 22 before releasing his wing.

A try then would have brought Newport to within three points of their opponents, after lan Jones had run through a sleepy Swansea defence on the stroke of halftime and Mark Workman had capitalised on Lloyd's blindside break soon afterwards. Reynolds was injured making the tackle and retired hurt. but his duty had been

SCORERS: Newport Tries: Jones, Work-men Conversions: Curror (2) Penalty goal: Connor Swanses: Tries: Loader (2). Booth (2). Hams. Moure, Chanks, Jeniers Conversion; Thomas. Conversion: Thomas.

NEWPORT: A Lawshm; S Cornor. N Lloyd.

R Snow I Jones. S Crons. G Taylor, R Goodley, I Gough M Workman. J Machasak Gough replaced by P Gonson (65mt); Cornor replaced by D Smeth 707.

SWANSEA. M Back. A Harms. M Taylor. S Gabs. S Danos. A Thomas. A Boott: C Loxder. G Jenions. C Arthory, A Reynolds. S Moore, P Arnold. C Ovense, P Moherty.

Reynolds replaced by D Nitol-155.

Undervalued Pontypridd display homespun virtues

Pontypridd..

BY GERALD DAVIES

IF WATCHING Cardiff is a frustrating experience — with no member, however ardent. confident of knowing what to expect from one week to the next - to follow Pontypridd can, by contrast, bring consistent reward. They rarely play

Cardiff, with a dressingroom full of international players, will often disappoint, but Pontypridd, with only Neil Jenkins and the newly-capped Rowley to boast about, seem always to live up to their hardearned reputation. Pontypridd deliver the goods, as they say, game after game. Yet they are rarely rewarded in the way they should be.

In the Heineken Cup they were the only team to collect six points from their pool matches and yet not reach the quarter-finals. In recent years they have challenged hard to win the league but have been pipped at the post.

They may feel hard done by already this season. They are in second position, behind Swansea, yet have won ten of their II games whereas Swansea have only won eight of theirs and are top by virtue of the bonus points they have collected.

This could leave Pontypridd sickeningly disconsolate. But they are not. Not if their present form is anything to go by. In this match, which drew 17.000, having been transferred to the National Stadium, they recorded their highest score against Cardiff and their second win of the season against them.

resulted from the ease with which referees are apt nowadays to present seven points by awarding a penalty try, but the three tries they scored in the second half were a far better indication of the manner in which they play their

Jonathan Davies had kicked a penalty after five minutes. during a period in which the home team could well have crossed the line for two tries. and the visitors were hardly in the contest. On their first close

contact with the Cardiff line in

Jenkins: dictated play

the eleventh minute, they twice came near to scoring but were held up on the line. On the second occasion, Cardiff's three-quarters were adjudged offside, with the referee ruling that a try would "probably" have been scored.

With such a crowded defence, his interpretation of probably was generous. Such a guit of seven points was taking the festive mood too far. Jonathan Davies and Neil Jenkins kicked a penalty each

before Davies stopped a kick by Jenkins on the Pontypridd 22-metre line and then hacked the ball the rest of the way for a try which he also converted to give his side the half-time This was Cardiff's high

mitted too many errors. Too many bad passes were made and too many of the decent ones were dropped.

Jenkins then took control. As always in his club colours.

point. Thereafter, they com-

he is a superb strategist. He kicked, he ran, he passed accurately. Whatever he did was beautifully firmed. First, he kicked two penalties to take his team into the lead. His passing brought the best out of Jason Lewis, who

persistently exposed Cardiff's midfield defence, and it was he who made the telling break which gave Paul John his try. Then Jenkins ran to carve an opening which gave Lewis his try. It was Jenkins's vision also which gave Geraint Lewis the gap for Manley's try. Needless to say, Jenkins converted all three scores. It was a first-class performance.

A late surge by Cardiff gave Justin Thomas a try which Davies converted, but they will need to improve considerably next weekend when they carry Wales's banner into Europe when they visit Brive.
SCORERS: Cardit Tries: J Davies.
Thomas Conventions: J Davies (2) Penalty goals: J Davies (3) Pontypriod: Tries: J Lewis, Paul John, Manley ponalty by Conversions: Jenioris (4) Penalty goals: Jeriers. S.

Conversions: Jeniens (4) Penistry goes-Jeriens (3) GARDIFF: J Thomas: S Hit, M Half, L Davies, N Wallier, J Davies, R Howley, A Lavis, J Humphreys, L Mustoe, G Jones, J Walterloot, D Jones, M Bennett, E Levis, Manual Productor for D Young 770min). Welvelord, D Jones, M Bennest, E Lewis, Musice replaced by D Young (70min), PONTYPRIDD: C Commack, D Manley, J Laws, S Lewis, G Laws; N Jenders, Phil John, N Eyron, Paul John, A Criffiths, M Sollier, G Prossey, M Rowley, M Williams, M Edwards, Griffiths replaced by C Menn (14min); Edwards replaced by R Collins (88).

Omotion

Leicester inspire Greenwood to take centre stage

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CURKESFONDENT

ONE of the curiosities about the advent of professionalism is not so much the players bought in by Harlequins but those of whom they disposed last summer: Chris Sheasby and Simon Mitchell went to Wasps, where they are pressing hard for league honours (the former also received belated England recognition), while Will Greenwood went to

He returned to the Stoop memorial ground on Saturday and forced the admission from a member of the Harlequins coaching panel that any casual observer, told that an international centre was playing. would immediately have se tled for Greenwood in that role ahead of Will Carling or Gary Connolly, from rugby league. It was a tour de force by the 24-year-old that helped to deprive Harlequins of their unbeaten ground record and took even Bob Dwyer by

"At the start of the season I thought Will Greenwood was grossly overrated," Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby, said frankly. "Now I have started to think he looks pretty good," Dwyer, of course, did not see the Durham University graduate's development last season when he was playing alongside Carling, witnessing rather the stuttering start to this season at Welford Road when the entire Leicester midfield looked a

However, before Christmas, against Bristol, and at the eckend, Greenwood looked the finished article. His distribution, in a bitterly-cold wind, was outstanding, his work in tidying up the errors of his agues no less valuable and he will have taken particular pleasure from his try -Leicester's third - for which he stepped out of Connolly's strength to hold off Carling.

He is able to play so well because Leicester, as a XV, have matured under Dwyer's patient guidance. The breadth of their game, from the first moment when they ran Harlequins' kick-off straight back, gives the lie to those who persist in describing them as a forward-based side only; nor is it a coincidence that they should have made vital stens since the return last month from suspension of Neil Back. "In terms of pace of the

game, pace of recycling the ball, urgency, that's the best we have done. Dwyer said. 'Neil is starting to feel his way back into the patterns of the game and that makes a difference." Dwyer was a happy enough man before Christmas, when Leicester hit the top of the Courage Clubs Championship at Bristol, and now he witnessed a display in which Leicester shut out com-

pletely thoughts of their Heineken Cup semi-final with Toulouse next Saturday.
Only in the final quarter, with the match won, did they relax and conserve their energy for the French and during that period the enthusiastic Harries, the best of Harlequins' live wires, scampered over for his two tries. The problem now for Dwyer is in selection; assuming that he has Richards, Potter and Rob



Greenwood: outstanding

Liley recovered from, in the first case, infection, in the latter two shoulder injuries, what is his optimum XV to

Richards withdrew late and his replacement, Eric Miller, made a considerable impact that Keith Wood, the Ireland captain watching from very close range, will have noted. Another Irishman, Niall Malone, remains maddeningly inconsistent, yet his hands are so good and he commands the attention of back rows who cannot afford to offer him space; further out, the moving of Lloyd to centre made space for Rory Underwood and how well he took the chance.

Underwood has not enjoyed demotion this season, from either club or country, yet he has handled the unusual situation professionally. He has given the benefit of his considerable experience to the young Lloyd (would an English coach, I wonder, have risked converting an inexperienced wing to centre against the likes of Connolly and Carling?) but, on Saturday, he looked hungry for the ball and two tries were the result.

kicker, which Harlequins patently do not. John Liley's havi of 19 points carried him past 1,000 in the league in 93 appearances for the club, and he has not been first-choice kicker in all of those. Only this season, Rob, his younger brother, had been preferred but Liley Sr has demonstrated his capacity for both attack and defence.

Harlequins, meanwhile, have been forced to emend around £250,000 for a 212-year contract to bring Thierry Lacroix to London, one of his primary aims being to kick goals which, against Leicester, neither Pilgrim nor Challinor could do.

Pilgrim missed three of his four first-half attempts as Leicester, against the wind, established an 18-6 interval lead. Nor could Harlequins make much of their lineout domination: Leicester threw in at no more than half a dozen lineouts, but for all the home side's efforts before a substantial crowd just short of 8,000, no sooner did they create openings than they knockedon or were swallowed up by a voracious defence.

The Leicester forwards hunted together whereas Harlequins, for all the efforts of Cabannes, went in penny numbers. Even at the start of the second half they could not shunt their way to the line: Carling was dragged down by a marvellous cover tackle a marvellous cover iscore from Healey, Snow was held up on the line and Pligrim knocked-on in the tackle by Wells that eventually forced the veteran flanker off with a damaged shoulder.

By contrast, Leicester inventive and supportive, never more so than when Liley. seeing space behind the de-fence, side-footed the ball forward with all the aplomb of a golfer making the best of a bad lie. Underwood pursued it, deserved a fortunate rebound and wrong-footed the cover for his second try, invention has not been a word necessarily associated with Leicester in recent times; it is now.

8CORERS: Haraquine Tites: Harites (2), Convenior: Crailinor, Penetty goals: Pilgrin, Chailinor, Lelosster: Toles: Under-vocad (2), Liley, Greanwood, Conversion: Liley: Penetty goals: Liley (4), HARLECAINNES: 8 Pagint, D O'Lessy, G Convolly, W Carting, S Brantley; P Chailinor, H Harties; L Bénésech, K Wood, J Leonast, Q Allson, A Snow, Garreth Llewellyn, W



Underwood leaves the defence trailing during an impressive return in which he claimed two tries for Leicester

Toulouse's injured return in time for semi-final

By DAVID HANDS

TOULOUSE, who defend the Heineken Cup in the semifinal at Leicester on Saturday, seem likely to have most of their leading players available after a run of injuries to such notables as Emile Ntamack. their - captain, and Thomas Castaignede, the exciting midfield player who has attracted the interest of the wealthier

English clubs. Though neither played in the quarter-finals of the Du Manoir challenge competition at the weekend, both are due to train with the team this week. A third international, Jean-Luis Jordana, came on as a replacement prop during the 35-16 win over Paris Univer-sity Club and promptly found his way back to the sinbin after a series of technical

Despite such Toulouse remain leaders of pool one in the French first division and they scored five tries in progressing to the semi-finals of the Du Manoir, two of them by the wing, Philippe Lapoutge. A third came from Pieter Muller, the centre capped 17 times by South Africa.

Brive, who play Cardiff in the second Heineken Cup semi-final on Sunday, lost to Biarritz in the previous round of the Du Manoir and were able to rest their squad. They remain a significant force at home and are one of four clubs on 19 points in pool two of the first division, behind Montferrand and Perpignan.

Though Bristol's league meeting with Gloucester fell victim to the weather yesterday, the second-team fixture between the clubs was fulfilled on Saturday, which gave Robert Jones the opportunity to return to action earlier than had seemed likely. Jones, the former Wales scrum half, required surgery on a pro-lapsed disc and initial predictions were for a return around

February.
Though Bristol United went down 27-25, Jones was happy with his return: "I came through the game without any problems and my confidence grew as the match progressed," he said. Jones, 31, hope of selection for the league game at West Hartlepool next Saturday. The break will also enable Bristol's captain, Martin Corry, to ensure that his recently-damaged ankle can take the strain. He was due to play yesterday and his forceful presence in the Bristol back row is vital.

Fylde cemented their place at the top of the third division by beating Leeds 13-0, a match notable for the dismissal of Nick Green, the Leeds player, for a stamping offence.

Irish and West tune into twilight zone

West Hartlepool.

BY BARNEY SPENDER

TEN DAYS ago, when three clubs were designated for the drop from the first division, this fixture had the tasty look of a relegation eliminator: a "must win" game for both sides.

The decision, bowever, by the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to increase it to four clubs changed all that, and both London Irish and West Hartlepool now look destined to finish in the twilight zone. West cannot really cry foul, having

benefited last season from a late decision to suspend relegation after they had finished bottom of the division. The Irish, however, are deeply concerned to a point where paranoia and conspiracy theories are beginning to take over.
"They'll do anything to get us out of

the first division," one club official said after the game. They don't want us; they don't want any exiles sides."
They is presumably a mix of the
RFU, the English Professional Rugby
Union Clubs, Oliver Stone and the Freemasons, but on their performance so far this season, London Irish have not exactly needed any help in putting their place among the

elite in such a parlous condition. This was only their second win of the season, and the first since Willie Anderson took over as coach from Clive Woodward, the man who guided them into the first division

The game was played at the ■ harum-scarum pace that befits two sides banding to save their professional skins. There were ten tries and a masterly performance from Conor O'Shea, the exiles' full back. Other-Wise, it was a game rife with errors: a constant supply of knock-ons, fum-bles, missed tackles, errant passing, senseless running and needless

West, who again delayed Liam

made the better start and opened up a 24-16 lead after tries from Ions and Morgan, the flankers. But their defence was virtually non-existent and the Irish took the game either side of the break.

In first-half stoppage time, Niall Woods, the left wing, tidied up a loose ball in the West 22, veered round to the right and set Bishop up for the try. Humphreys's conversion meant the exiles turned around just a point behind and, three minutes into the second half, they were

A promising move out to the left appeared to break down when Henderson, ignoring a two-man overlap outside him, cut back inside and lost the ball in the tackle. Fortunately, it went backwards, and O'Shea, press-ing Dominic Crotty hard for the Ireland full back position, picked up and battered his way through some feeble defence to touch down under

The Irish, through Davidson and Fulcher, began to dominate possession but West, to their credit, continued to battle to the last. John Stabler, the stand-off half, added a try to his five penalty goals and three conversions to swell his points haul for the day to 26, and the hard-working Connolly was also rewarded when he claimed a touchdown in the last

By then, though, Barry Walsh, (twice) and Henderson had scored; Humphreys had kicked his way to 22 points, and the committee men were already chuntering in the bar.

allready chuntering in the bar.

ICCRERS London Hatt Tribe. Wash (2), Dawdon, Bashop, O'Sha, Henderson, Conversions: Humphreys (5) Penalty goels: Humphreys (4), West Harrispoot: Tribes: Iors, Morgen, Salohr Connoils: Conversions: Station (3) Penalty goels: Station (5) LOBOON INSEN CONSINE WASHINGTON, Barrier, Bishop: Delication, Korenda, L. Mooney, R. Keltam, G. Hetpin, K. O'Connell, G. Fulcher, J. Denddoon, K. Dewson, B. Walsh, Dawson replaced by V. Costello (15mm); Sisterior replaced by R. Hennesey (47); Mooney replaced by J. Fitzpatrick (22).

WEST HAPITLEPOOL: M. Sixe: M. Wood, J. Connoily, S. John, G. Cordie, J. Stabler, M. Rodenct; W. de Jonge, A. Peacock, P. Whatelock, J. Jons, G. Murphy, K. Mossely, R. Earnshaw, J. Morgan, Ions replaced by J. Messton (30); Cordie replaced by K. Oliphant (55).

Raterier: C. White (Gloucesters/met).

Melville sounds warning as Rees kicks Wasps to victory

Northampton.

BY JOHN HOPKINS

TWO of rogby's most respected figures expressed doubts about aspects of the game in England after this match, one that Wasps won but should not have and thus remained level with Leicester at the top of the Courage Clubs Championship first division. Since the men concerned were Nigel Melville and lan McGeechan, directors of rugby at Wasps and Northampton respectively, their words need some heeding.

Melville was sceptical of the cheque-book tactics adopted by some clubs. Since the most blatant example of buying in players at present is by Harlequins, his words will add spice to Wasps' game at home to Harle-quins next Sunday.

game. We have never said we are the all-singing, all-dancing team that can win at all times. We have a lot of young lads in our team and there is

lots to work on. "All the hig names in rugby available at the moment are dropping off at the end of their careers. am not sure that is what we want. I want the next Pienaar, the next Stransky, the next Sella, the next Lynagh. If we are to become like the southern hemisphere, we do not want people who are a bit past it. We have to get the players who are the best now. That is the only way we can get ahead."

The worry of McGeechan, the coach of the British Isles touring team to South Africa next summer, is that the spectators will not continue to be attracted to the game unless the standards continue to improve. "If you ain't got a product worth watching, then in two years' time we



Tuigamala, left, of Wasps, fends off Nick Beal, of Northampton

Accordingly, McGeechan told his men to continue to play their free-running style, with all its inherent risks, even though this was their fifth defeat in the league. Northampton scored the game's only try and, in Matt Allen, have unearthed a thrusting centre who is playing the best rugby of his life. As McGeechan pointed out, Northampton had the majority of the game - and this is putting it mildly - but kicked badly.

Paul Grayson kicked only two penalties from six attempts and one conversion as well as missing two dropped-goal attempts. Jack Rowell, who is rumoured to want Grayson at stand-off half for England's opening game in the five nations' championship against Scotland in February.

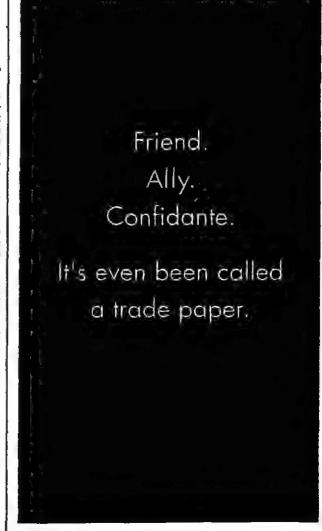
can hardly have been impressed. Grayson's inaccuracy was underlined by the success of Gareth Rees, who kicked six penalties out of six. Rees is no sylph and he and Tuigamala, side by side in attack as on occasion they were, make a fearsome sight. As Rees's teaching duties at Eton are to be eased this term, is it too much to expect him to have time to train and lose some pounds avoirdupois?

This game was typical of many of the modern era. It was full of bad handling, bad passing and bad refereeing, and yet it was entertaining for the 5,000 spectators. They might not have been as warm as the pitch with its undersoil heating, but the level of commitment in front of them made sure they were not in danger of freezing to death.

Glanger of freezing to death.

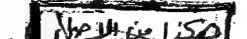
SCORERS: Wasper Panety goals: Rees 89 Northemptor: Try: Chandler. Convention: Grayson. Penalty goals: Grayson (2)

WASPS: GRees; S Roser, N Greenstock, A James, V Tugamelte. A King. A Gomersal; M Griffiths, 5 Mitchell, W Green, L Zalagito, D Cronin, A Reed, M White, C Sheesby, Griffiths replaced by D Moloy (57min); Cronin replaced by R Ninsey (57), Mitchell replaced by D Macer (80). MORTH-MAPTON: N Beal; I Hunter, M Allen, R MacNaughton, H Thomeycroth P Grayson, D Malone M Volland, A Clarke, G Walsh, S Taspon, J Philips, J Chendler, A Pouniney, T Rodber, Rodber replaced by J Cassell (81).



Because there will always be politics. Because there will always be cuibacks. Because teachers, heads and children have but one chance to do their best, don't miss your copy of The TES every Friday





Day Sampras served up helping of true grit



ither or both of two essential qualities go towards making the winner. There imponderable fellow, or patience; temperament or stamina; often experience, sometimes a need for revenge; occasionally a sheer flash of anger, always practice. More usually, however, it comes down to exceptional ability and that rarer, indefinable, quality - the iron in a competitor's spirit. A few have both. Daley Thomp-

son, for example, and Jack Nicklaus. Fred Perry and Denis Law had both. So did Herb Elliott and Ayrton Senna, so does Steve Redgrave. Nick Faldo, on the other hand, has been more conspicuous for the second quality than the first. What might be called the Rock of Gibraltar factor. It is a factor common to many female winners: Chris Evert, Mary Peters, Grete Waitz, Virginia Leng, and the new double Olympic champion from Russia, Svetlana

Trying to define the soul of different champions is an endlessly elusive exercise. The past year, including the Olympic Games in Atlanta, has seen many excel. Carl Lewis joined Redgrave as gold medal-winner in a fourth Games. stealing some of the thunder from that younger Achilles, Michael

Yet if we are looking for iron in the soul, for action that tells us most about the inner man, the supreme figure of 1996 has been Pete Sampras. He touched the emotions during the US Open championships in a way few, if any, have done since Gabriel Andersson-Scheiss in 1984, when staggering semi-conscious to-wards the linishing line of the first women's Olympic marathon.

By Sampras's personal standard, 1996 was, perhaps, not a great year. It began with him still



Sick and groggy, Sampras refuses to yield, battling on to beat the Spaniard, Corretja, in the US Open championship. Photograph: Blake Sell

weary from the previous season. which had ended with his substantial contribution to the Davis Cup final victory over Russia. In the French Open and Wimbledon championships, he had flagged. Here, supposedly, was evidence of a player whose body, if not his mind, was all played out - by his previous seven grand-slam titles, by his 36 career titles, which had already earned him in excess of \$22 million (about £13.5 million) in prize-money.

There was the feeling that he no longer needed the challenge, that,

at 25, he was aiready burnt out. How we were to be proved wrong.

Jump ahead of the story. Sampras was to demonstrate, for the second time in three months. his refusal to surrender when he

defeated Boris Becker in an enthralling final of the world championships of the Association of Tennis Professionals in Hanover in November. Becker, belying his age at 29, had already won their round-robin meeting at this event. He was set for a stirring climax in front of 15,000 Germans when coming from two sets to one down to win a fourth-set tie-break 13-11 -only then to succumb in the fifth

That tie-break was a whole match on its own: 13 points against service, two match points for Sampras — both lost on rallies and four set points for Becker before he secured the fifth.

TOMORROW

Rob Hughes recalls special moments that revealed the

Yet if Sampras's courage then was something special, it did not compare with what had occurred on a suitry night in the crucible of Flushing Meadows in a quarterfinal against the unheralded Alex Correga, of Spain, a 22-year-old never previously at this stage of

If I live to be 100 I do not expect to witness a braver performance than that by Sampras in the fifthset tie-break, his vision blurred and his knees buckling as he vomited uncontrollably from ex-haustion, yet refused to yield. It

had been a sterling performance by Corretja, ranked 31 in the world, who had set point in every set and now had match point in the riveting climax. It could be said that luck smiled upon Sampras as he tottered close to collapse: a double fault by Corretja on

Sampras's second match point. Yet

Corretja, too, had been pushed

beyond the limits of concentration. For more than four hours, he had traded aces with Sampras -25 apiece - and had shaken him when taking a 2-1 sets lead. In the

'He touched the emotions in the US Open in a way few have done'

window for a way out of jail, a single, brilliant, half-volley drop shot for a service break that enabled him to level the match. Entering the final set, Corretja, critically, had the odd game service lead: 1-0, 2-1, 3-2, inching his way towards improbable triumph. Trailing 5-4 and serving to save the match, Sampras first took a medical break in the locker-room, changing clothes and returning looking like someone entering the emergency ward. He held his service, but so did Corretja for 6-5. Somehow Sampras clung on for 6-6, forcing the fifth-set tie break, that ultimate in ball-game Russian roulette. At 1-1, Sampras stooped, dutching his stomach, and was sick, though his stomach was

ad Sampras at this mo-ment walked away from the match, conceding defeat by retirement, none would have condemned him. His distress was too stark; to continue was beyond the call of duty. I have seen occasional British players fold under one-lifth of such pressure, and Ryder Cup players in golf who have preferred voluntary capitulation to the possible, worse, pain of reaching for victory and still failing. Sampras now continued to stretch out an ailing arm.

At 5-5, a smash brought him match point, but he lost successive points, to go match point down. The 20,000 crowd was held in breathless awe as Corretja served for the kill. Sampras returned, Corretja hit a cross-court forehand and Sampras, lunging as though grasping for the handle of life itself, struck a blind, winning

Still in nausea, Sampras served for 8-7. Corretja, trembling at the magnitude of his position, double faulted. Victor and vanquished, with barely the strength to shake hands, stood equal in honour on fourth set. Sampras had found a this memorable night.

Foster tackles cost of career cover

be cost of a career-ending tackle for a lower-division footballer is about £250,000. That is the estimate of how much Brian McCord was awarded in damages in the High Court a few days before Christmas.

McCord, whose right leg was broken in March 1993 when he was playing for Stockport County against Swansea City, said after the case that he had had to live on Income Support since his injury. Risk is present throughout the season, but the hard grounds of winter add to

For 22 years, Steve Foster provided defensive cover for chib and country. The end of last season marked his retirement as a player, but he will still be providing cover for hundreds of fellow

The former Brighton and Hove Albion captain has resisted the temptation to go into management and instead he, and a squad of former players, hope to sign up as many of those still in the game as possible and help them to manage the risks that threat-

Foster runs Pro-Secure, an insurance business to protect footballers from the sort of injury that can bring a promising career to a premature end. Gary Stevens, a one-time Brighton colleague, is one of those selling Foster's policies. Foster said: "He (Stevens) broke his leg and had to play on for a year because he had no cover.

Foster was not an obvious candidate to tackle the intricacies of policies and premiums. "When I was a young player, if anyone came in to talk about insurance or pensions. I'd make an excuse to go to the toilet and dive out of the window," he said. "I became Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) rep here about three years ago for the first time in my whole career. I got voted in when I had a day off,

There was a young lad called Billy Logan who got his leg broken very badly. He could never play again. My iob was to see what was on offer. He got £2,500 from the PFA through insurance. 1 looked into what policies there were and realised I'd been playing for 20 years without insurance and realised that what there was was inadequate."





Clubs had policies to protect their investments in players and to pay transfer fees for replacements, but players themselves had little or no entitlement to anything.

Having found a broker and a Lloyd's underwriter, Foster said: "I started off targeting all the younger players, who I felt were the ones to look after. taking policies out for £50,000." This level of cover costs about £i0 a week, he said, and would give them an income for a couple of years.

Foster has now turned his attention towards the estabperhaps £200,000 to £300,000 a year. He offers policies that pay out up to £1 million, for a premium of about £200 a week, and can arrange cover for up to £5 million.

About 85 per cent of footballers are "running about without insurance" Foster said, although incidents like the one in which David Busst, of Coventry City, broke his leg remind players that their careers can be short.

ardo MACKay, Busst's agent, said LV L that the player, who worked for an insurance company before becoming a professional footballer, did have cover. "When players come into the game, the last thing on their mind is a serious injury or a career-threatening injury." MACKay said.

With hindsight, he added, the policy would have guaranteed a higher level of payout in the event of Busst being unable to play again. MACKay said: "Coventry City have indicated that they will look after the player." But with a footballer dependent on the goodwill of his club, the agent wants an appropriate level of cover to be provided as part of a player's contract. "With David's recent injury. I'm looking at this area with

FRANK LE DUC young netballers. Covering umpiring coaching and ad-

Steeled for cut and thrust of life

BARELY more than a sword's thrust away from the stage of the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford upon Avon. s one of the most productive cradles of fencing in Britain. Few academic institutions

possess such a concentration of young talent in any Olympic sport as King Edward VI School. Renowned principally for its intellectual excellence and its medieval timbered buildings, where Shakespeare is believed to have studied, the school has established a distinction for proficiency in the sabre during the past decade. David Kirby, the coach, partially accepts the premise

that fencing is an activity that attracts intellectuals. "Although it requires the intelligence of the streetwise, a fencer has to process an enormous amount of information very quickly."

The sabre is the event at

which Britain had generally been the least prominent in international competitions. Kirby believes that it is more dramatic than either foil or ėpėe, which are thrusting weapons, rather than sabre in which hits can be scored with the side of the blade. "The sabre is swashbuckling. It sword. That is the attraction for young boys." Of the 432 pupils at the boys-only grammar school, about 50 fence seriously and the decision to concentrate on the sabre was made three years ago.

Kirby said: "We used to practise all three weapons. However, I realised that the

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THERE may be some truth in

the adage that sportsmen and

women are born rather than

made but it still takes a

minimum of six years to

develop the complete netbal-

ler; to polish a player capable

of competing with the world's

best. Recognising this, the All England Netball Association

(AENA) is taking a close look

The upshot is an embryo

strategy that outlines ways of

increasing and improving the quality of opportunities for

at youth development.

ing was too high for one person to coach at all three. We had not the time nor the resources - so the boys and I decided to concentrate on

The results have been startling. In the Munich tournament last month, one of the three under-17 European events from which competitors are selected for the 1997 world cader championships, the two leading Britons, Mike Johnson, who finished 23rd, and Simon Whitbread, 27th, were both from King Edward VI School. In the British individual youth championships the same month, two other members of the squad, Tom Croft and Hugh Jackson. took the under-18 and under-16 tides.

Johnson, 38th in the 1996 world under-17 champion-ships when he was only 15, has



pression, fitness, or technique

He was attracted by the sabre. "It is more aggressive and much quicker. You do not get so much closing opponents down. In the other weapons, you are looking for smaller



NETBALL: BASKET OF MEASURES WILL HELP TO CULTIVATE YOUNG PLAYERS

New strategy opens way for future stars

with the national English

squads on a sports-science

support programme, based at

Manchester Metropolitan

At a time when there is

increasing discussion about

the development of British

sporting excellence, and more

money than ever seems avail-

able for investment, netball is

not intending to be left behind.

national performance strategy

that will enable the sort of

back-up available in Man-

chester to percolate down to

netball's youth development roots, creating vastly en-

hanced support for the most

AENA has drawn up a

University.

ministration, it emphasises

the need for clubs and leagues

to liaise with local authorities,

days when coaches simply

passed on techniques learnt

during a PE teacher-training

course years earlier are long

gone, AENA stresses that

coaches today require de-

tailed, up-to-date, information

on a kaleidoscope of topics

including diet, fitness, mental

preparation and anatomical

Leading nethallers demand

assistance from sports scien-

tists and AENA has a team of

Acknowledging that the

schools and colleges.

and swimming to help his fencing. "Swimming is good because you use the whole of your body. Fencing is a bit one-sided. Swimming is good to help build up the muscles need to be so fit for the actual

training to get to that competition." Whitbread, also 16, has iven up playing scrum half for the school to concentrate on fencing. "I'd like to go to the world under-17 champion-ships next year." Such an achievement would also be

fencing competition but you

have to be really fit to do the

nice" to put on his application for university entry. Fencing fascinates him.
"You have to use not only your eyes but also your senses. You have to remember what your opponent did two hits ago."

The squad fences at least twice a week, including travelling to London to practise with the Britain Under-20 squad. On two other days, they do physical training and weekends are spent either in competition or in catching up with academic work.

Martin Joynes came eleventh in the national under-17 championship in October, al-though he is 14. He would like to be ranked in the top five next year. He saw the sport advertised when he joined the school three years ago. "I was pleasantly surprised by the sport. It challenges your mind and body," he said.

The boys themselves recruit for fencing," Kirby said. The best recruitment officer is always the satisfied soldier."

promising young players and their coaches.

Designed to minimise the

hit-and-miss approach to tal-ent-spotting, the idea is that all

young nerballers should be allowed a chance to develop

according to nationally agreed

and scientifically implement-

As Pauline Harrison.

AENA's national director of

coaching, said: "The young-

ster in your junior team may

well be an England player of

the foture. It is only by taking

these opportunities and mak-

ing the very best of what is on

offer that we can really be sure

of achieving excellence,"

ed guidelines.

CYCLING

puts Clarke in control

BARRIE CLARKE, in his first winter season as a fulltime professional, used his bike-handling skills to good advantage yesterday to win the Royal Bank of Scotland cyclo-cross on an icy circuit and in a snowfall at Macclesfield.

The result, with Clarke leading home his fellow internationals, Tim Gould and Carl Sturgeon, by more than a minute, confirmed his recent good form and makes him favourite to regain the professional championship next

Nick Craig, the British Open Champion, was at yesterday's 15-mile event but elected not to compete because of a cold, otherwise Clarke might have been more closely challenged. Gould, following his clear victory in the previous day's Notts and Derby league race, was left as the obvious dangerman but, when Clarke put in a determined attack on a slight climb after three miles, Gould found

his legs wanting.
"Once I was clear, I was able to concentrate better on the course difficulties," Clarke said. "Some of the corners, with a lot of ice about, were

particularly slippery."

Although alone in the lead, he still had several tense moments in lapping the race stragglers on narrow stretches of the course, one of whom was his partner, Britain's leading mountain biker. Caroline Alexander, who went on to win the women's

On present form, Clarke, who mixes a programme of cyclo-cross and leading mountain bike races, looks set for a place in Britain's elite squad to compete in the world cyclo-cross championship in Munich on February 2.

The Walker brothers, Harry and Brian, finished first and second in the Elmet CRC ten-mile time-trial near Tadcaster when both of them used the same bike, based on the Graeme Obree design to give a "ski" position. Brian. the fifth rider to start, completed the course in 21min 55sec and handed the bike to his brother, off number 35, who went on to record the stest time of 21min 18sec.

Early attack | South West sights on title double

THE no-offside rule in the junior divisional tournament was exploited to the full yester-day, with high scores marking the end of the second day of the event, played at Clifton College, Bristol.

South West rounded off the proceedings with a resounding 6-1 victory over South East, after leading 2-1 at halftime. Of the four goals scored in the second half, two were struck with the reverse of the stick by Johnny Loose.

This victory put South West in a strong position to win the under-17 title, but Midlands, who defeated West 3-0, also at the end of the day, have a chance. All three goals for Midlands were directly scored from short corners by Adam Ross. Matthew Taylor and David Hutton,

South West could also take the under-15 title if they earn full points from North East, who have not yet won a match. After winning their three previous encounters, South West were held to an exciting 1-1 draw by South East, who were kept in the match by their goalkeeper. Keir Starley, who made several diving saves.

James Webber scored early in the first half for South West. who allowed several chances to slip away. South East raised their game in the second half and Jonathan Stiff equalised.

A.5-3 win against the Cheam First XI was another link in the long chain of successes by the Cheam President's XI in the annual Dick Hollands memorial match at North Cheam on Saturday.

In the 25 years that Tony Bennett has run this event, his president's team has lost only five times. The last occasion was in 1984, when they went down 4-3.

For a brief spell midway in the second half of the match on Saturday, the president's men had cause for concern when their lead was cut to 3-2, but Molloy and Knapp pushed victory beyond the reach of the club team with late goals.

in a fast and free-flowing match, Mollov scored three goals for the president's team and Knapp two. All three for Cheam were scored by the centre forward, Milibourn, who combined well with Marun at inside right.

specialists employed to work azil wilkali

mechanics.

been fencing since he came to the school at the age of 11. The sport is not purely ag-It is a combination. You need



Whitbread, right, and Johnson, two of the leading Britons, cross swords, while Joynes watches the action

MATICOMAL LEASUR (FL): Play-offs: American Festical Confidence wild-card: Butile 27 Jackson/Me 31, Mistorial Footbell Confidence wild-card: Delias 40 Minresold 15 DOWLS: Corport Mistorial 36 Utah 10. Liberty: Syracus 30 Houtton 17 Peacht: LSU 10 Derman 7. ATHLETICS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Cross-coultry
CDUNTY OLIFFARE Interestioned members were investioned (2/m): 1, J Mayock (Carnock) Grain 15sec; 2, G Sisswert (Edinburgh 2:16; 3, M rasss (Belgrane) 6:17; 4, P Searlon Coverenty) 8:18, International (9:3sm): 1, J Broom (SB) 28:24; 2, D Kornern (kin) 29:27; 3, H Parnassis (SA) 28:31; 4, Y Millon (Fr) 28:28; 5, A Peastyon (GB) 28:47; 8, A Mezgabu (Eth) 11:147; 7; K Cullain (GB) 28:57; 8, P Taylor (GB) 28:58; 8, P Steffor (Stovekin) 20:03; 10, D Burrows (GB) 29:24, Women: International (5:2 m): 1, G Warm (Eth) 17:32; 2, E Fidebot (Film) 17:33; 3, P Reddiff (GB) 17:38; 4, L Bloot (RB) 18:00; 5, M Charles (Florn) 18:00; 6, G Urge (Eth) 18:05; 9, L Subseno Ken) 18:10; 10, S Reg (GB) 10:20.

BOLLEY: Many & Scuth of England Understand 5. M. Charles (Form) 18:00 5. G. Unge (Em) 18:04; 7. L. Wilson (US) 11:10; 8. E. Kjoliget (Fert) 18:15; 9. L. Subarto Ken) 18:10; 10. S. Rigo (ED) 16:20.

BEQLE?: Nav'a Scuth of England Underman Inter-Counties Championship (12:wit): 1, A Graffin (Kenfiguest) (7min Scaec, 2, A Barber (Cambridgeshire Incider) 37:53; 3. Intrinse Graffin (Kenfiguest) 37:53; 3. Intrinse Graffin (Kenfiguest) 38:34; 4, S. Sman (Bertshire) 38:36; 5, A Coleman (Middlesser) 38:59, Teams: 1, Sussex 63:pts; 2. Hampshire 67; 3, Surrey/C. 4, Odordshire 78; Viconen's South of England Inter-Counties Championships; Senior (8:5cm); 1, D. Sanderson (Hejfordshire) 24/min 41:sec; 2, J. Hampshire 4; 3, Ensex 50; 4, Surrey 73; 5, Sussex 91; 6, Middlesser 122; 2. Shares (Surrey 73; 5, Susex 91; 6, Middlesser 122; Lustions (Sizm); 1, Susex (Goldstrie) 20:27; 3, C. Radon (Buckinghamethe) 20:38; Teams: 1, Kent 38:pts; 2, N. Sister (Oddodstrie) 20:27; 3, C. Radon (Buckinghamethe) 20:38; Teams: 1, Hampshire 51; 5, Susex 91; 1, Susex 1, Susex 91; 1, Viturier (Bardiama) 13:rch 44:sec; 2, J. Nugent (Heritochire) 13:50; 3, A Bevan (Susex) 14:03; Teams: 1, Susex 44; 3, Middlesser 122; 2, Susex 44; 3, Middlesser 52; Under-13; 3, Susex 1, Viturier (Bardiama) 13:rch 44:sec; 2, J. Nugent (Heritochire) 13:50; 3, A Bevan (Susex) 14:73; Teams: 1, Susex 44; 3, Middlesser 52; Under-13; 3, Middlesser 52; Under-13; 3, Middlesser 52; 1, Easex 44; 3, Middlesser 52; Under-13; 1, Viturier (Bardiama) 13:rch 44:sec; 1, Australiama 11:rch 11:r

Road running HAM: SperkIII (3 miles): Merc 1.

Harisquing: Tries: Harries 2. Con: Chalinor. Pens: Chalinor, Pilgrim. Leboster: Tries: Urperwood 2. Green-wood, J Liley. Con: J Liley Pens: J Liley 4.

London Irleh 52 West Hartispool 41

London Welt Tries Watch 2, Bushop, Devices on O'Shee, Henderson, Constitutionary, 8, Period Humphreys, 8, West Hersteyof Tries Controlly, 10th, Bucgard, Stattler, Corner, Stable 3, Period Stabler 5,

in Long Ross

Harington
Sancton
National Indiana

Second division

Direct Trials Ournell 2, Clarks, Brown. Core: Mason 4 Pens: 12. Coverstry: Try: Smallwood, Con:

POSTPONED: Rugly v London Scottship

Notingfram 12 0 11 209 528 2

EACHER SCORESE 190 58 Million
(Richmond: 6 Inss: 53 conversions, 20
penalty goals) 152: A Andraw (Newcestle; 21, 47c, 15pg, 1 dropoet goel); J Harris
(Doventry, 31, 28c, 22pg, 5dg), 140; J
Steele (London Softmar, 21, 25c, 27pg, 1dg) 132: M Payer (Bedford; 41, 35c, 14pg) 94; M Jacksin (Wakefleit; 21, 15c, 17pg, 1dg) 91; M Jiman (Rotherstern; 14c, 21pg), 80; S Currnel (Richmond; 167) 70; G Armstrong (Newcestle; 14q 17les; 16; Outmel, 14; Armstrong, 11; J Fallon (Richmond) 10; A Institutor), 12 Fallon (Richmond), 10; A Institutor), 13 Bentiny (Newcestle), A McAlam (Coventry).

Fylder Try, Barcie, Corr. Gough. Pen: Gough. Dropped grait Gough

London Weish: Try: Raymond. Corr. Raymond. Pens: Earmond 6. Dropped goal: Raymond. Ciltion: Try: Handway. Corr. Hogg Pens: logg 4

Other: Tries: Burke, Walker Pent Rulledge Wharfedale: Tries! Hodgson, McManus, Walker Con: Mourpey Pent Moursey.

Reduith: Tries: Wurs 2. Douch, Gomez, O'Sullaan, Const: Barrebly 2. Gomez, Pent: Gomez, Walsalt: Irles: Harding, Walter Cons: Mals. 2. Per: Mills. Oropped goal: Barles.

London Weish 24 Clifton

Third division

10.3

107

1.4

Courage Clubi

Championshig

P Ectoff (Conjunton) 28mm 53sec: 2. Mi Mechin (Stourpon) 29:02: 3. 8 Mills (Tipton) 29:28. Veterart. 1, 3 Cuwes (Bromspons and Reddisch) 30:12: 2. P Carbut Bromspons and Reddisch) 30:28: 1. 8 Wareing (Sparkhill) 32:07. Women; 1, 5 Rogers 38:28: 2, J Simpaon (Soffruit and Small Health) 38:25, 3, E Bake (Sparkhill) 39:29. 39:29.
COVENTRY: Missesy Ferguson (5 miles): Marc 1, K Heyes (Nuneston) 24mm 17sec; 2, A Laukam (Toton) 24:21; 3, 1 Perce (Toton) 24:22; 3, 1 Perce (Toton) 24:22; 7 Seminstry Godine 59 Veterant V Ness (Tellist) 36:15, Over 55; 5 Febris (Coventy Godine) 35:51, Over 55; 6 Febris (Coventy Godine) 35:51, Over 55; 6 Febris (Rossey Ferguson) 37:17; Womers 1, M Sutton (Westerny) 27:17; 2, L Whitbatter (Saddenworth) 32:20; 3, C Jones (Sphery) 32:45; Tearn: Missesy Ferguson) 32; Veterant D Philips (Massey Ferguson) 35:25; TADWORTH: Besteller (10 mAus): 1, 18 Major (South London Harriers) 53mm

TADWORTH: In the season of the minor: 1. In Major (South London Haminer) Sommi 48sec; 2, 1. Zone (late of Wight) 54:58; 3, B Cooles (Croydon) 55:49. Vesteranc G Tuck (Heraulas Wimbledon) 56:22. Over 50; G Teylor (Dotring and Mole Valley) 1:01:30. Wigher 1. L. Lagget (Hame HB) 1:02:02. 2. Physic Strangeting 1:05:23; 3, W. Jones (Poysson) 1:06:23. TODAGNOCH: Hot Toddy & misst war:

1. P Freery (Bolton) 26:18; 2, K Sminst (Hallard) 29:05; 3, D Humchard (Longwood) 30:22 Wernen: 1, L Cooper (Rocsandels) 35:13; 2, K Drake (Spanborough) 35:38; 3, V Bally (Longwood) 36:41. PLASSLP: Round the Lido relay (3 laps, 8 miles): 1. K Fogery (Eating, Southell and McGlesser), T Shew, 8 femoset (both Hillingdon) 45min 44sec; 2, M Dewidns, C Clark, S Edwards (all Hillingdon) 48:05; 3. S Tattot, J Hervey, D Clark, tail Hillingdon)

HYDE PARK: Serpentine (Sim): Merc 1, R Kindersley (Serpentine) 16min 24zec; 2, S Ingali (Hercules Wimblados) 16;21, 3, L Morgen (Sixiders of Croydon) 16;33 Women: 1, J Dunbrill (Degenham 88 Joggens) 21:44; 2, 5 Sorace (Degenham 88 Joggens) 18:06; 3, M learns (Serpentine) 23:59. WORDSLEY, Dudwy and Stourteridge (Strat Merc 1, G Beard 16min 10sec; 2, P Evens, 17:29; 3, E Fletcher 17:34, Women: 1, J Hischmough 19:00; 2, N Hitchmough 20:00; 3, C Gery 22:43.

WALL HEATH: Ducley and Stoutchidge Christmas Walls: (46 miles): Merc 1, 3 Tsylor (Lalosser WC) Semir 40sec; 2, 6 Tenter (Birchield) 3749; 3, P. Soliane (Lelosser WC) 39:13. Women: 1, 8 Black (Birchield) 37:25; 2, N. Huckerby (Birchield) 37:25; 3, L. Speakborough (Birchield) 32:251. BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday. New Jersey 105 Indiana 34; Washington 100 Toman & Jersey 107 Combine of Claveland 94 Millianukes 88; Portland 102 Cleveland 94 Millemukes 88; Portland 102; Los Angeles Clippers 98; Los Angeles Listers 102 Boston 102; Seturday; New York 95 Chlando 85; Utah 110 Philidelphis 94; Washington 97 Atlanta 88; Detroit 97 Charlotte 75; Mirmesotte 102 Derwer 98; Clit; Houston 104 Golden 52da 95; Chicago 102 Cliveland 97; Dalles 95; Sastile 90; Phoreix 103 Vencouver 98; Bischemero 136 Boston 95.

District Cleveland Atlanta Districts Milwastras Indiane Toronio 26 27 18 16 75 75 15

World Booking Association (WBA): Essender Hobyfeed (US): International Booking Federation (IBE): Machael Mooker (US): World Booking Organisation (IBEO): Heavy Akinswande (SB): World Booking Council (MBC): Viscarie. Crusienweight (MBC): Have State (IBE): Marcello Dormeguser (Angl.) (NBCA): Istae Middle (IBE): SB): Adolfo (Machangoro (US): MBC): Harl Rocchigtoni (Se): Light-heavy-weight (MBC): Angle (IBE): MBC): Forth Rocchigtoni (Se): Light-heavy-weight (MBC): Rock (IBE): Light-heavy-weight (MBC): Rock (IBE): Rock (IBE): MBC): Angle (IBE): MBC): Forth Rocc (IBE): (MBC): IBE (IBE): MBC): Forth Rocc (IBE): (MBC): IBE (IBE): MBC): Angle (IBE): Term Norms (US): MBC): Angle (IBE): MBC): Angle (IBE): Term Norms (US): MBC): Angle (IBE): Term Norms (US): MBC): Angle (IBE): MBC): Angle (IBE): Term Norms (US): MBC): Angle (IBE): Term Norms (US): MBC): Angle (IBE): Term Norms (US): MBC): Angle (IBE): MBC): Angle (IBC): A Process (Marion 21 9 700 21 10 877 15 15 500 13 17 433 11 18 379 10 19 345 10 19 321 LA Lakers Seettle -Portland Secramento Entorn Stani LA Cliopera Phoenix 8% 10% 11

BOXING

BRIDGEND: Weish Indoor Bowling Association: Under-25 singles charage planting the Under-25 singles charage planting first round: \$2 Turner (Lancell) of D Gough (Savern Valley) 21-18; D Hopsins (Port Tabor) bt B Jones (Savern Valley) 21-11; R Deniet (Oger) bt B Exace (Eartewood) 21-20; G Astrone (Oger) bt N Ress (Lancell) 21-20; G Thomas (Dinelve) bt P Edinborough (Torben) 21-8; G Devices (Port Tabor) bt N Germans (Dinelve) 21-3; G Webley (Cardl); bt N Adridge (Radnor) 21-14; C Lyons (Newmont Valley) bt C Cardli); W Demoster (Swanses) we G Pros (Bro Ddyll); G Mone (Islayn) bt C Young (Eartswood) 21-12; C Pyron (Merthyr) bt J Stephann (Merthyr) bt

FOR THE RECORD WOFILD CHAMPIONS: Hamyweight: World Boxing Association (WBA): Evender Holyfried (LIS) international Boxing Feder-ation (BF): Michael Michael (US): World Boxing Organisation (WBO): Henry Hammand ASM World Boxing Organi

. (MHC) "Yun Activescheschot (Plass), (MHA) Seen Sor Proencint (Plas) (RF) Meri. Johnson (LRS), (MHOS): Altodo Januaro (Mex), Light-flyweight (MHC). Seman Songarsong (Pres), (MHA) Polit Sebengaluson (That) (HHF) Michael Carbani (LHS), (MHO), Jule Malaisa. Strawweight (MHC): Recardo Lopes (Mex) (MHA). Resendo Alexaro (Macassyun) (HHF) Rattan Dutchboy-gym (That) (MHSO); Alex Sanchez (P Recol. **CRESTA RUN**

ST MORITZ: Yurt turction handicap: 1. M Viagner (Switz) handicap 0.30, total 127 85 2, C D von Bohlen und Habbach (Austral 25.0, 127 89; 3, D J Lewisodge (Sig 2.59 127 93; 4, P G Dethelm (Switz) 1.10 128 93; 4, V Lewis Schulbers (Switz) 1.10 127 SS. 4, P. G. Diethelm (Switz) 1.10. 128 SB, 5, X von Schultness (Switz) 0.50. 128 34, 6, L. Marenz (US) scratch. 128.36 The Califorch Grinchust 7, G. Pisch (Switz) 129.98; 2, Marenz (US) 130 45, 2, J. Bachati (Switz) 130.50. 4, A Loneszo (Sp) 130 59; F. G. Ganszer (Switz) 130 72; 6, Von Schultness 131.06 CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Sydney (50 overs) Australia A 292-7 (5 G Line 78, D S Lehmann 69.

Bul Dilversio 63) Paicstans 293-7 first Ahmed 122 not due, Incomant-4Hap 59 Paidstans win by three wolsels SUPERSORT SEPERS Paul eard day of four). Botand 170 and 179, Northern Transacal 177 end 177. Boland win by 55 nurs. Cape Totan first day of four) 17 northern Cape Totan first day of four 17 180 part 187. Boland 187. CYCLING

Cyclo cross ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND SUPA-CROSS (South Park, MacDecked, 15

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE LATEST POSITIONS 12 0 NEW ZEALAND Courtsuids ... 1. 12.3Com Group 4 (FINUSHED) 5. Alobal · • 11, Time Save the Children 170% 172°W 174°W Second leg Rio de Janeiro to Welfington 6,600 miles 178°W

178°E 13.52GMT yesterday DISTANCE TO WELLINGTON: 1. Group 4 linished 14:59 26GMT verterday: Children (bue to linish 22.1303): 3, Toshiba Wave Warror 219 miles: 4, Mol Global Telmant, 337: 6, Commercia Union 339: 7, Pause To Remember 34 Electric 394: 9, Ocean Rover 516: 10, Concert 596: 11, Time 8 Tide 597: 12, 30 Courtendals, Informational 632: 14, Health Insured II 316.

milesi. 1. B Clarks (Team Raloogh) the Omin 29sec; 2. T Gould (Team Schwinn) at 1 103. 3. C. Stargeon (Team Coringe-Pertas) at 108; 4. S Artigin (Ristescence) and AC) at 1.08; 4. S Artigin (Ristescence) and AC) at 1.00; 4. S Artigin (Ristescence) and AC) at 1.00; 5. M. Scotcon (Ace RT) at 1.41. 6. C. Young (Pace Settle IV) 1.58 Aproportion (Pace Settle IV) 1.59 Aproportion (Pac

Mountain biles

SALISBURY PLAIN CHALLENGE (Industriantly Training Ground, 50km): 1, O Beckingsale (Bless and Boards) 1.58-34, 2, Hurd Fleam Kona), st 1.41, 3, 5 Bowers (Orbita-Viceroy) at 6.40 Time trials

BEJACSS WHEELERS (Stagsdert, Bed-fondshire 18 miles) 1, A Parks (North Bucks RC) 46:05, 2 A Homer (MC Cametot) 45:35; 3, J North (45 Road Club) 46:44 ELMET CRC (Techaster, North Yorkshire, 10 miles) 1, H Walhar (GS Metro) 21:18, 2, B Walker (GS Metro) 21:55, 3, 1 Cooke (JE James RT) 22:43

HOCKEY

DARTS PURFLEET, Estanc Red Band World Championship: Group B: A Wamner (Eng) bt I. Butter (US) 3-1. Group C: K Deter (Eng) bt K Spotels, (Eng) 3-0. R Hammgton (Eng) bt S Downs (US) 3-1.

(Eng) bil S Downs (US) 3-1.

EARLS COURT: British Open Champjonship: Men: Quarter-finals: R Beder
(Langashre) bil D Routledge (Cambridgeshre) 2-1. A Smith (Worcestenshire) bil R
Schoken (Holf) 2-0: M Adams (Cambridgeshre) bil C Demy (Moribot 2-1: K Panter
(Esseu) bil L Walsos (Hampstom) 2-0. Semi
shrels: Smith bil Beder 2-0: Panter bil
Adams 2-1. Final: Panter bil Smith 2-1.
Women: Semi-finals: D Hedman (Esseu) bil
J Phalips (Hentholdsher) 3-2: Phoresolaus
(Holf) bil K Krappen (Holf) 3-0 Final:
Hoersolaus bil Hedman 3-1

FIL HOLLANDS MEMORIAL MATCH: Cheam 3 Cheam Presidem's XI 5. MEN'S CLUS MATCHES: Almondebury 4

Whitchurch A 1 Bath 3 Bath Bucconners Baseomited 2 Die Spoker 2, Challen Peter 1 Harrow 4 Leomastor 1 Hereford Shelheld 9 Hudderslield 5

Presist Pharlow Controlled S
PRESTOL: Divisional tournements: UnderTS: Shatherings; East 2 South East 2: Madands: O South West 1: North East 3: North East 2: North East 3: North East 2: North East 3: North East 4: North West 3: North West 3: North East 4: North West 3: North East 4: North Mest 3: North West 3: North East 4: North Mest 3: North Mest 3:

SOUTH VERY 1 SOUTH EAST 1
MELTON KEYNES: Women's to
tournamenta: Under-21: East 2 to
1 South 3 West 0: East 4 North 1
18: North 2 West 1: South 0 Mid
East 4 North 1 Unions-185 South 1
2 West 1 East 3 North 1 South 1 LACROSSE

IMEPHENDS PRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Temperby 7 Mellor 10 Stockport 13 Cheadle Hulms 8 Poynton 12 Old Weconans 9 Boardman and Eodles 10 Hulmeans 8 RUGBY LEAGUE

BLK CAT CHALLENGE CAP: Pine munit Dewibury Moor 16 Upton and Finckey 0. Postponed: Maykield v Ecoles, Wigan St. Judes v Wigan St. Panchs v Helton Simms Cross, Saddleworth v Elen-borough: Cuenden v Hensingham CHARCHES: Browned Life II was CLUB MATCHES: Postponed; Hull v York Oldham v Swinton. SKIING

BORMO, hely: Men's World Cup down-hill: 1. L. Alphand (Fr) 2 Dünes Sisse: 2. W. Bosse (Swetz) 200.72; 3. K. Ginedina (h. 201.18; 4. F. Podwinki (Lan) 201.47; 5. J. Strobi (Austrei) 201.56; 6. F. Simbli (Austrei) 201.75; 7. A. Skandal (Not.) 201.76; 8. F. Cavegn (Switz) 201.80; 9, A. Schrifferor (Austrei) 200.24; 10, W. Franz (Austrei) 202.38; 9 High: 20, 5 Bell 203.82; 44. A. Frashweler 209.07; Bell 203.82; 44. A. Frashweler 209.07; Ester four races) 1. Alphand 30opts, 2. Ginedine 265; 3. J. Strobi 194, 4. Skandel 191; 5. Franz 195, Leuding World Cup positions: 1, H. Knauss (Austrei) 421pts; 2. Alphand 352; 3. M. von Grüngen (Switz) 331; 4. S. Locher (Switz) 395; 6. J. Simbli 252

Sinobi 292
Sinobi 292
SelMRERBIG, Austria: Woman's World
Cup station: 1, D Compagnon III) Innin
42.64sec. 2, P Chauset (Fr) 1,43 98; 3, C
Regiar (N2) 1 44 85; 4, P Wipagn (Sue)
1 44.85; 5 U Hovet (Slovena) 1 45.13.
Leading World Cup positions: 1, Wibers
512ths; 2, K Seunger (Serf 494; 3, H Gerg
(Ger) 416, 4, Campagnoni 300, 6, Riegler
289

SKI JUMPING OBERSTDORF, Germany, Men's World Cup: 1 D Thoma (Ger) 253pts 2 K Brenden fNor; 252 6: 3 A Goldberger flusting) 246 7. 4. T Okahe µlapan; 246.3 5 H Satron (Japan; 2413 Leading World Cup positions: 1 P Peterka (Slovensa) 382pts 2 Brenden 391 3 Thoma 379: 4. Goldberger 352: 5 Okabe 325

SNOOKER

SQUASH

DIAMOND CENTRE, tritiangborough: Dr Mertens European Leegua: K Doherly (fre) bl J Partott (Engl. 7-1: R O'Sulliven (Engl. bt S Caves (Engl. 7-1: P Ebbon (Engl. bt Doherly 5-3; Ebbon bt Parrott 7-1.

HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY, Edinburght:
Bank of Scottand Jurior open champlonshipe: Under-19: Boys: First round: O Hee
(Melay) bit M Rizal (Sing) 9-4, 9-4, 10-9 S
Grozn (India) bit P Kelly (US) 9-5, 7-9, 9-1,
9-5: S Hall (Scot) bit A Mediegard (Sing) 9-5,
9-4, 9-0 J. Holde-Jerstein (Den) bit J
Hargolias (Arg) 10-8, 9-4, 9-6; A
Holdereggen (Switz) bit K Durstmads (Boh
9-2, 9-3, 9-0 C Small (Scot) bit Diporticine
(Austina) 9-3, 9-3, 1-9, 9-1; R Boogaard
(Holl) bit F Torres (Col) 8-10, 9-6, 9-5, 6-9,
9-7 T Berden (Holl) bit S Gasning (NZ) 9-0,
9-1, 9-3 Girls: Second round: L McKenna
(Scot) bit C Boaument (Eng) 9-0, 9-0, 7-9,
9-1 L Crome (NZ) bit G Thompson (SA) 9-2,
10-8, 9-7, M Fipoli (Sp) bit J Waven (Scot)
9-3, 9-7, 9-4; K Harnes (Bel) bit D Betts (US)
9-1, 9-2, 9-1 HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY, Edinburgh

TENNIS

PENTH: Hopman Cup: Group A: Crosta bt Australia 2-1 (Crostie names Int.) I Majob to N Bradithe 6-4 6-3 G hamssen: Ind to M Philippoussas 2-6 3-6 Namesen: Ind to M Philippoussas and Bradille 7-6. 7-5) United States to France 2-1 (United States In America 6-4, 6-1, 3 Genesistob lost to G Forget 6-2, 6-3, 6-3, Genesistob and Ruben to Mogett and Pertel 3-6, 6-3, 6-2) CRAIGLOCK-HART, Edinburgh: Scottlish Jurillor inser-area 1986 Tea Cap: West tholders; v East (West names first Boys J McDonald bt A Hawle 6-4, 6-2 A Mackedme lost to McEmour 6-1, 6-3, Grost Novers 6-1, 6-4, Group in S. Jegarin 6-1, 6-0, Gris K Stewart bt L Paterson 6-0, 6-0 N McGleton lost to K Paterson 6-1, 6-4, Result: West 8 East 6 (West 13 Stits, East 13 sets, West vm 114-113 on games, North v South (North names Inst. Boys M Malcolm bit N Roddurgh 6-0, 6-1, Gris J Scally lost to P Dootan 6-2, 6-1 Com by Wester 6-2, 7-5 F S C Young lost to L McCartney 6-2, 7-5 C Young lost to L McCartney 6-2, 7-5 C Young lost to L McCartney 6-2, 7-5 C Young lost to L McCartney 6-3, 3-6, 6-3) Result: North 8 Sound 4

VOLLEYBALL

ENGLAND WOMEN'S SQUAD (Softed Cup, Lizermbourg, January 3 to 5): V Malone, H Campball, M Johnson, H Radder, A Namel, K Sammi (All Britains Music), J Smith, 9 Lowes, M Coutts, K Fiddler gas Manchester United): A Glower (Melory), K Ingham (Sheffield)

LEACHAG SCOPIETAS 1792. S Gough (Fylds; 2 tries, 26 conversions, 37 pensity goals, 2 chopped goal), 173: G Ainscough (Leach; 8), 22c, 35pg), 188: C Raymond, (London Weier; 41, 14c, 35pg, dog), 148: P Rufscotge (Otter, 41, 25c, 25pg), 137: P Mons (Lychey; 21, 17c, 31pg), 193: R Mills (Weissell; 11, 17c, 31pg, 10g), 197: R Zong Harrogate; 19c, 22c), 10g) 97: I Morgan (Rechaft), 21, 12c, 21pg), 98: A Green (Essas; 21, 18c, 14pg, 2cg), 98: A Penscock (Moray; 18c, 14pg, 2cg), 88: A Penscock (Moray; 18c, 19pg), 78ms; 10: R Bell (Harrogath), 5 Downel (Pastel), R Mathies (Leach), M Presion (Pylds), 8 P Congo (Flechath), M Studies (Lychey), C Weiter (Wrarfachie), Aspettie SU Worosster at Descort Mi School Numeston 32 Stoke-on-Trent Shaffeld 10 Marchester Whothington Park 15 Strengmany8 Reproprietter Managements

Wasps 15 Northempton 13 Wasps: Pens: Ress | Northemptor: Try: Chandler Corr. Grayson, Pens: Grayson 2. POSTPON Lichfield; hosponi P V O L F A Pbs 10 0 2 250 181 18 9 0 1 245 196 18 11 12 2 9 1 0 2 202 180 11 18 9 1 0 2 202 180 11 12 2 12 2 12 180 11 10 0 0 0 5 214 286 8 9 0 6 187 282 6 8 9 0 6 187 282 6 9 0 0 1 0 8 245 377 4 9 0 0 8 183 334 2 9 0 0 8 183 3 Fourth division south Taberd 13 High Wycombe 13 Weston-s-Mane 20 Met Police 40 POSTPONED: Askesns v Plymoutir, Camborley v Newbury, Charton Paris v Hentey, Chellentem v Barring; North Walersom v Berry HA.

Omeli 9 0 11 125 388 2
LEADING SCORESS 125: J Liley
Leicesser; 2 tries, 116 conversions, 28
panetty goals), 122 5 Humphreys (London
Insti; 16c, 27pg, 3 disposed goals), 117; J
Caliser (Bestr; 2, 2-2; 2)pg, 116: M
Mechiloff (Graucestef 11, 10c, 23pg, 1dg),
110: G Riess (Waspel 11, 12c, 27pg) 97; P
Grayson (Abritamplon; 11, 13c, 18pg,
4dg) 79; W Carling (Hastequirs; 21, 27c,
5pg) 77; P Burler (Fresto, 11, 10c, 16pg)
Tries: 8: A Adebsyd (Bath), 7; H Harmiss
(Hartequirs), 8: J fall (Northempton), J
Guscott (Beth), S John (West Hartepool), D
O'Leory (Hartequirs) Newbury
Hertay
Hertay
Met Polica
Camberley
Crebenhem
H-Wycombe
Plymouth
Barking
Talbard
New Washing
Weston-a-M
Beny Hu
Astroners
Churtori Park P W D L F A 1 9 9 0 0 346 121 10 9 0 1 327 197 11 8 0 1 325 176 10 7 1 2 280 165 8 6 1 2 307 133 11 5 1 6 272 280 10 4 2 4 217 225 10 4 1 5 298 210 10 2 3 5 181 183 10 2 1 6 177 286 3 2 0 7 171 280 11 3 0 8 183 235 3 2 0 7 171 280 10 1 1 8 15 348 10 1 1 8 15 348 397 Weish League

First division Bridgend Bridgend: Tries: G Thomes 2, Grai, Corr. Durston, Pener, Durston, 2, M. Lewis, Trescriby: Tries: D Lloyd, Harrenene. Corr. D Lloyd, Pener D Lloyd, 3.

23 Pontypridd Circle Cardist Tries: J Davies, J Thomas Const J Davies 2. Pune: J Davies 3. Pontyprido: Tries: J Lewis, Manley, Paul John, penelly by Const Jenidra 4. Pene: Jenidra 3.

Thy Const Jenkins 4. Pens: Jenkins 3.

Newport 17 Sersman 42

Newport Tries: I Jones, Mechacek. Cons. Comport 2 Pent Connors. Swemen: Tries. Booth 2. Louder 2. Charve, Hermes, Jenkins, 5 Moose. Cont. Thomas POSTPONED: Durwert v Casphilly. Nesselv 1 Lanell; Newbridge v Ebbe Vale.

PW D L. F. A T. B. Pis. Swemen: 11 8 0 3 508 185 73 14 33 0 Pontypratid 11 10 0 1 422 193 48 7 27 Bridgend 11 7 1 3 384 223 44 5 20 Cardiff 10 6 0 4 328 251 44 5 7 27 Bridgend 11 7 1 3 384 223 44 5 20 Cardiff 10 6 0 4 328 251 44 5 10 14 15 0 8 293 308 43 5 15 Newport 11 5 1 5 297 373 41 3 14 Ebber Vales 10 7 0 3 196 2542 1 0 14 Durwert 10 5 0 5 236 302 25 1 11 Treorchy 12 2 0 10 231 351 30 3 7 Casphilly 11 1 D 10 192 3555 5 7 Newbridge 11 2 0 9 158 539 20 0 4 SECOND DIVISION. Postponed: Aber Newbridge II 2 0 9 158 539 20 0 4
SECOND DIVISION: Postponed: Absserver V Cartiff Institute, Herbillery v
Lisndoway; Cross Kays v Bonymair;
Messag v Ystradgynsiss; Portypool v
Abergynor; South Wales Police v
Blackwood.
THIRD DIVISION: Lienhams 21 Burth Wels28; Rumnery 38 Tradeger 23, Tenby Uki 24
Nerberth 29. Postponed: Merthyr v Kenfig
Hit; Mountain Ash v Penarth, Pyle v Tondu
SWALEC CUP: Fith round: Postponed: Bigginscod v Hewsan.
TOUR MATCH: Postponed: Coephilly v
Itely XV

TODAY

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL
Cay v.Staines (7.45).
LENSUE Pramier division: Outort
Cay v.Staines (7.45).
LENSON WESSEX LEAGUE First ofvision: Whitchurch United v Bernerion
Heath Harlequare.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE.
CAR: Third rosmit Hallam v Borrowsoh Vic.
Inglish LEAGUE COCA-COLA FLOODLIT
CUP: Flost round, first leg: Oneigh Town v
Pertactions.

Periadown
SCHOOLS MATCHES: London Cup:
Under-15: Buckinghamshire v Essex (2.0).
English Whowles Cup: Under-14:
Buckinghamshire v Essex (2.0). Vernon-League: St Helens v Winst (10.30) Inter-Association: Gosport v Brent (11.0).

HOCKEY

JUNIOR DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENT IN Cation College Sports Ground, Bristol, 10.0)

10.0) WOMEN'S TERRETORIAL TOURNA-MENTS: Under-21 (at National HC, Nation Keynes, 10.0), Under 16-18 (at Woughton, Million Keynes, 10.0)

OTHER SPORT

Puriset). PACING: Ceritale (12:50); Lingüeld Pask (AW, 1.05); Neathury (12:30); Plumpton (1.10); Seatard (1:15).

TOMORROW

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Lianell v Rely XV (2:30)

DTHER SPORT DARTS: WDC World Chemptonship (at Purflest). RACING: Cetterick Bridge (1.0); Fontwell Park (1.10); Lingfield Park (4W, 12.56); Taunton (12.50); Warmich (12.45).

WEDNESDAY **FOOTBALL** FA CARLING PREMERSHIP: A

ŧ.

MOC World Championship (at

SRU inter-district Caledonia Reds 31 Edinburgh 13 Caledonia Reds: Tries: Rouse, Longstaff, K.McKenzie, Caruthers, Cort: M.McKenzie, Pens: Shepherd 2, 14 McKenzie Edin-burgh: Try: Mattier Cons: Hodge Pens: Hodge 2. championship

participal de la company de la



Group 4, skippered by Mike Golding, approaches Wellington Harbour in first place at the end of the second leg of the BT Global Challenge yesterday afternoon. Golding's yacht also won the first leg. Report, page 24

(5pm) Liss C snow Conditions Runs to Piste Off/p resort ANDORRA Solden (Excellent piste skiing but some ice law down) ALISTRIA 10 50 good varied ky sur (Pailes in good shape above 1,500 metres) 45 145 good varied good sur (Pistes generally good: resort busy) 45 190 good varied ky sur (Pistes vary busy; generally good but some ice) Kitzborni Oberguigi St Anlon FRANCE 120 140 good crust good sun 5 25/12 (Good skiing but icy patiches on busy runs) 65 145 good varied hard tair 9 20/12 (Paties becoming hard-packed: resort very busy) 160 240 good crust good tine 8 20/12 (Good piste skiing in all areas) Avorise Méribel Vei Thorans ITALY 150 300 good crust good (All pistes in excellent shape) 70 230 good vened herd (Great stifing on firm snow) Cervinia 10 23/12 Livigna SWITZERLAND 60 160 good varied good (Mostly excellent kanonenrohr getting icy) Mürren sun 11 25/12 Veri Wer Sour Shell No Ayr No Base Brack Mane

SNOW REPORTS

Verbier 55 200 good	vaned worn sun 11 20/12 runs busy and getting worn)				
Wengen 40 100 good					
Source: Ski Club of Greet Britain.	L - lower slopes; U - upper.				
ICE HOCKEY					
SUPERLEASUR: Marcheste 1 Card 2	Northeast division				
Bracknet 7 Marichester 4: Shelijekt 3	Buffaio 19 15 3 41 108 98				
Nottinghitin 2 (CT)	Pitisburgh 18 15 4 40 130 120				
PWDLFAPa	Hantord 17 12 6 40 106 113 Boston 13 16 6 32 101 123				
Cardfi 24 16 2 6 106 75 34 Sheffield 22 12 3 7 87 61 31					
	Montreel 12 18 7 31 118 132 Ottawn 11 16 7 29 94 102				
*Nowcastie 23 13 2 8 104 80 31 Avr 22 8 6 8 83 93 22					
*Nonmoham 23 8 1 13 75 84 21	Victoria Gentle open				
Basenostoke 23 8 2 13 84 100 19	Central division				
Brackness 22 7 2 13 82 104 16	WLTPb FA				
Manchester 21 6 2 13 70 94 15	Dates 22 11 3 47 108 84				
" does not include last mater a match	Dioces 20 11 6 48 118 73				
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Friday, NY Re-	Phoene: 16 17 4 36 100 117				
ngers 3 Angheim 2 Toronto 3 St Louis 2	St Louis 16 20 2 34 107 127				
Dallas 6 Boston 4, Phoenix 7 Vancouver 4	Checago 14 19 6 34 99 104 Toronto - 16 22 0 32 117 135				
Philadelphia 6 Edmontori 4 Saturday: Hart-]				
ford 3 Ottema 2 Detroit 7 NY Islanders 1	Pazific division				
Prinsburgh 2 Buttalo D; New Jersey 5 Ana-	Colorado 21 10 5 47 128 87				
heim 3, Flonda 1 Washington 1, Montreal 4 Tampo Bey 4, Toronto 5 Chicago 4, Edmon-	Samuarium 16 19 4 36 130 123				
ton 5 San Jose 3; Colorado 5 Los Angeles 2	Calcary 18 18 1 33 105 118 Calcary 13 19 5 31 93 108				
	Calgary 13 19 5 31 93 108 San Jose 13 19 4 30 92 116				
Eastern Conference Attentic division	Los Angeles 13 20 4 30 100 127				
W L T Pla F A	Anahem 12 19 5 29 103 115				
Florida 20 6 9 49 112 87					
Philadelphia 22 12 3 47 116 90	PREMIER LEAGUE: Slough 7 Medway 5 Solinut 10 Kingston 3 Swindon 7 Tellord 1				
New Jersey 20 12 3 43 96 84					
NY Rangers 19 15 5 43 136 107	MONTHERN PRESENT LEAGUE: Com-				
Washington 15 19 3 33 99 102	reagh 5 Whitey 7				
NY Islanders 12 15 8 32 95 104 Tampa Bay 11 19 5 27 99 113	SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Duratives 6				
Tampa Bay 11 19 5 27 99 113	Muttayfield 6. File 7 Passley 4				

GUIDE TO TH	E WEEK AHEAD
DINONI PLONE	Lamosto y Strathord Lagrandi V R.

RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB MATCH: St Helens v Wigan val Entweller Road, 3.0s.

DARTS: WDC World Champurson, Purfoot) RACING: Catiotick Bridge (12:50): Chellen-ham (1.0): Exster (12:45): Lelcester (12:55): Southwell (AW, 105): Utlaneter (12:56). Windsor (12:50) THURSDAY FOOTBALL BBLL'S SCOTTISH (EAGURE Premier division: Rangers v Celic (6.30)

OTHER SPORT

OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Budweleer (mague: New caste v Hernel and Wattord (7.0) DARTS: WDC World Championship (a) Purfeeli) ICE HOCKEY: Superlanguet Ayr v Shel-field (6.30); Brackmell v Basingstoke (8.0). RACING: Ayr (12.40); Lingleid Park (AM, 1.20); Mariel Resen (12.30) SNOOKER Lemporal Victoria charily challe angle (in Birmingham).

FRIDAY DARTS: WDC World Champonship (at Furtiset), RACENOR Lingfold Park (12.50); Sedgefield (195), Southered (AW, 1.0), Towcester (12.45) \$NOOKER: Liverpool Victoria chality challonge (in Birmingham)

SPEED SKATING: British short-track
champanahipa (al Guildlood) SATURDAY

FOOTBALL Kits,-off 3.0 unless stated PUS, off J.O Union stated
PUS, off J.O Union stated
ACUP: Third round: Assensi v Sunderland (7 AS): Wycombe v Bradford, Barralay
V Octours: Seculouri v Port Vale. Bradford
V Manchester City, Cartisle v Trammere:
Chelson v West Bromwich: Cheatorfield v
Bristol Cay, Coventry v Wolking: ** Crowe v
Merbiedon; Crystal Palace v Leads.
** "Gillingham v Derby; ** Hednesford v York.

Leicester v Southand, Livespool v Burnley, Luton v Botton Middlestrough v Chester. Norwich v Sheffield United Nottingham Forest v Ipswich: Pyrnouth v Petstorough; Cueers Park. Rangess v Huddersfield, "Reaching v Southampton Sheffield Wednesday v Girmsby: Sevenage v Birmingham ta Birmingham Cdy FC, 3.0, Stoke v Stockport; Watton v Catord United: "Wolverhampton v Portamouth; Wresham v What Hern.

What Hem
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division:
Bournemouth v Preston, Bury v Streetsbury Third division: Barnet v Lincoln
Registon v Exeter Cambridge United v
Northampson: Caralif v Scunthorpe Dorcaster v Rochdate; Fulam v Swansea.
Herstord v Darlengton, Huff v Colchestor;
Leyton Onent v Mansfield. Wigan v
Hartispool Hartispool

VALIOHALL CONFERENCE: Famborough

v Atmichism, Heitlas v Bromsgrove, Hayes

v Dover, Kertering v Morscambe, Noder

remister v Northwich. Southport v Barti,
Telbord v Statybridge, Welking v Rushden &

Termonater v Residen &

Telland v Stalybridge, Welling v Ruchden & Diamond:
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premiew division: Abendiem v Dumlemmine, Cellic v Mothaneel, Dunden United v Rimannock-Hiberman v Bangars: Raith v Hearts, First division: Auritie v Greenock Morton; East Rite v St Johnstone Falkali v Clydibank; Partick v String; St Marzen v Dundee
TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Second round: Agr v Clyde; Berwick v Peterhaad; Brechm v Livingston, Cowdenbeath v Dumbarton, East String v Brove, Fortar v Albo, Queen's Park v Gala Fargy-deart Ross County v Monttose; Spartarts v Arborath (2 Q; Stanhousemur v Hamilton; Strance v Inverness CT, Whiteinil v Queen of South (2.15)

RUGBY UNION Nick-off 230 unless stated INTERNATIONAL MATCH: RESENC V ROY (a) Lensdowne Road, 3.0) TOUR MATCH: Neath v Linead States AV 239. HONESON CLP: Northfreit Lincology v Toulouse (3 05).
CDURAGE CLUBS CHAMPONS B:
Finst division: Bash v Saracons (3 0);
Gloucaster v Northampton (3 0); Ortell v
London Inch (2 0); West Hainelpool v Bristol
(3 0) Seatoms division: Bedfood v

Blackheeth (3 0): Coventry v Rugby (3 0). London Scotesh v Wakefield (3 0): Moseley v Wateriol (3 0): Moseley v Wateriol (3 0): Moseley v Wateriol (3 0): London (3 0): Neurastie v Nortringham (3 0): Forterham v Richmond (2 15). Third division: Eserae v Caldry (3 0): Harrogate v Leargood St Helens (2 15): Leads v Hawart (3 0): London Westh v Fylde, Lydney v Citron (3 0): Rednath v Morley, Walsall v Rosslyn Park, Wharledste v Reading (2 15): Fourth division north: Birmingham/Solhull v Herstord, Nendal v Asparia, Lichtleid v Winnington Park, Manchester v Numeaton (2 15): Preston Grasshopper, v Sandal (2 15): Preston Grasshopper, v Sandal (2 15): Preston Grasshopper, v Sandal (2 15): Preston Wascham, Berny Hill v Tabard, Hersley v Weston-super-Mase, High Wydomste v Cambertey, Mel Police v Chettenham (3 0): Newbury v Astrons (3 0): Plymouth v Charlton Park, WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Durward v Newbondge, Ebbe vale v Bindgend Usineb v Carditi, Pontypridd v Newport Swansal v Caerphilly, Postponed: Treochy v Neuhondge, Ebbe vale v Bindgend Usineb v Carditi, Pontypridd v Newport Swansal v Caerphilly, Postponed: Treochy v Neuhondge, Ebbe vale v Bindgend Usineb v Carditi, Pontypridd v Newport Swansal v Caerphilly, Postponed: Treochy v Neuhondge, Ebbe vale v Bindgend Usineb v Carditi, Pontypridd v Newport Swansal v Caerphilly, Postponed: Treochy v Neuhondge, Ebbe vale v Bindgend Usineb v Carditi, Pontypridd v Newport Swansal v Newtondge, Ebbe vale v Bindgend Usineb v Carditi, Pontypridd v Newport Swansal v Newtondge, Ebbe vale v Bindgend Usineb v Carditi, Pontypridd v Newport Swansal v Newtondge, Ebbe vale v Bindgend Usineb v Carditi, Pontypridd v Newport Swansal v Newtondgen Usineb v Carditi, Pontypridd v Newport Swansal v Newtondge, Ebbe vale v Bindgend Usineb v Carditi, Pontypridd v Newport Swansal v Newport Swansal v Newtondgen Usineb v Carditi Pontypridd v Newport Swansal v

RUGBY LEAGUE SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: First round: Moldgroon v Durham University (2 0). Outlon v Ideal ABI (2 0) First-round replay: OTHER SPORT

OTHER SPORT
ATHLETICS World cross country international (in Beltast)
BASIKETBALL: Budweiser League: Crystal Palace v Lencester (7 30); Derby v Tharnes Valley (7,30), Newcastla v London (7 30); Worthing v Hernel and Watfood (8 0) National League: Bern First division. Bury and Botton v Guidford (7 30), Cardid v Ordond (8 0), Covernity v Stockton (7,30), Solient v Nottingham (8 0) Wastminster v Mild Susser (8 0) Women: First division. Crystal Palace v Shethed (5 30) Women's Netflorial Trophy: Sami-finals: Doncostor v

Phymouth (4 15). Tyre and Wear v Len (6 D) Purificett.
ICE HOCKEY: Superforague: Basingsloke v Newcastle (6:30). Cardid v Ayr (7:0): Notingham v Manchester (6:40). Handled Haddid Haydock, Park. (12:45). Lingfield Park. (AW. 12:50): Manseiburgh. (12:30): Sandown Park. (12:55). Warwack. (10:5): SANDOKEET: Liverpool Viertiest dynamic draft. SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria charity chall enge (in Birmangham) SPSED SKATING: British short-track championehips (at Guildford)

SUNDAY FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Third round: Chestion v Newcastle (1 30) Everon v Swindon (3 0), Manchester Unded v Todernham (4 10), Notis County v Acton Villa (12 0), NATROMWIDE LEAGUE: Third division: Fulham v Swensea (1 0)

RUGBY UNION HEINEKEN CUP: Semi-final: Brive 1 HEINERCH COP* Semi-max: Brive v
Cardil (2.30)
COURAGE CLUSS CHAMPIONSHIP.
First division: Wasps v Harlequers (at Lottus Road, 3.0)
SPU INTER-OISTROLT CHAMPIONSHIP.
Glesgow v Caledonia (at Ayr, 2.0) Scottash
Borders v Edinburgh (at Poynder Park, Kalso, 3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB MATCH: Whiteheven v Carlisle (1330)

OTHER SPORT ATHLETICS: World cross country international (in Beliast).

BASICTBALL: Budweiser League: Chestor v Crystal Palace (6.0), London v Leopards (7.0) DARTS: WDC World Championship (at Incoment
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Newcastle v
Carditi (6:30), Shelfield v
Basingstoke
(6:30), Manchester v Ayr (6.0), Bracknel v
Notingham (6.0).
SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria charity challenge (in Brimingham)

Me Ulisa

emby v Sunderland; Derby v Shatfreid Wechnedby, Eveston v Bladdaum is 45;
"Lincenser v Tortenham, Manchaster United Wechnedby, Eveston v Bladdaum is 45;
"Lincenser v Tortenham, Manchaster United v Relon v Medical Southerroten v Wirthledor: West Ham v Natiricham Forest NATIO-MNDC LEAGUE First Salation: Barroley v Octherry, Benargham v Manchaster Chy. Bollon v Baddord: Charlton v (passet), Crystel Palaze v Residing-Huddersfield v Stole, Norwich v Perstrouth, Colord United v Grenzby, Part Vale v Southend; Shatfreid United v Wichterhamptor: Swendon v Queens Park, Rengers; West Bromech v Torrivere, Swood Salation: Bastol Rovers v Plymouth (1.0); Burnley v Christianistic, Crave v Milwell, Luino v Bury Notis County v Bournwouth; Petaborough v Weldert, Perston v Weethern Rotherham v Glingham; Swewsbury v Bastol City. Third division: Colchester v Bernet, Hertlepool v Hult, Linceln v Weger, Warsfall of Palman, Notitamplan v Cardordge United Scarborough v Stevensor v Welling, Sough v Stevensor v Welling, Sough v Stevensor v Stellyndge v Gatesheed, Maccassial v Almorism Maccassial v Almorism United v Planning division: Colchester v Herrish v Heers, Motherwell v Kithermank, Field division: Colchester v Seathorough v Stevensor v Ballin, Hibertilen v Heers, Motherwell v Kithermank, Field division: All v Salating, Fedial, v Almore, Salonough v Stevensor Colchester V Salating, Sough v Stevensor V Stevensor Chicason v Salating, Sough v Stevensor Chicason v Salating, Colchester Salating, Albrogh v Cowdenbeath, Montrole v Foreign, Albrogh v Cowdenbeath, Montrole V Foreign, Causer v Park v Alborn, Ross Courny v Isseenbeag GT.

Physiology United Mills.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Web: Emerging Players v United States XV for Newpork 2.200. CLUB MATCHEST: Fyton v Backpool (2.30): Hartispool Rowars v Wasg Herslepool (2.10): Hartispool Rowars v Wasg Herslepool

John Goodbody meets two runners who took control of their lives to meet the challenge of a lifetime

Go that extra mile to fight the flab





on Marathon. Patsy Carr went from couch potato to runner and, above, finished the 1996 London Marathon with friend Margaret



Dealer North

London Marathon is

With barely 3½ months to of the accepted entries are preparing to do what they would never have believed was possible — to run 26 miles

The marathon attracts elite

unfit enthusiasts, thousands of mythic distance. Many have ' determination to keep til and healthy, and, above all, get greater satisfaction from their lives.

Several have had to overcome the disadvantage of

in Swindon, and Patsy Cart. 46, a mother-of-three and an employee of WeightWatchers in Liverpool, are typical. Their lives and bodies have been transformed by the experience

tive at school. "I had a go at

The demands of family work muant that she had even more excuses to be inactive. "I always was a couch potato. I weight went up to 18st.

By 1991, she had had mough. She began to diet and lost 421b. She joined Weight Watchers in 1993. "I needed sensible eating and control." She then started to exercise at a gymnasium. "I had a go at everything. I became interested in the running machine, although (was so unfit that after five minutes i nearly fell off.

Gradually she built up the training until she could manage 20 minutes. Margaret Sherry, her training partner, then suggested they should run outside.

"I said that I didn't fancy it. It was raining. It was cold. But when I got outside I couldn't believe the difference from a gym. The wind was so fresh and the atmosphere was so different. I had actually

started running."

By then she was down to 122 st. Soon the idea of entering events attracted her. She completed two half marathons and then became one of the fund-raising tunners for the British Heart Foundation in the 1996 London Marathon.

"I had always watched the race on television, but had always thought the runners were in a different league from me. They were the healthy people. They were in control of themselves. However, now I wanted to be in control of

By now she was down to 1012st and the prospect of raising an impressive £2,400 by combining with Mrs Sherry was an extra incentive. She completed the distance in 5 hours 35 minutes 33 seconds. She said:"I am like a tortoise, but I keep going. So

Patsy Carr, right, and Margaret Sherry with their cheque for charity much of running is in the leagues, they set up a pioneering group they called the Swindon Six. mind. That is what carries you

through. That is what any The ingredients were simmarathon runner's new year resolution should be - to ple, he says. "One of sport's complete the course. Stamina. greatest events, one of the bestwill keep you going." This is why she will once again be at known charities, six people who had never run a marathe start-line on April 13. thon before, advised by inter-nationally-known athletes Mr Loveday, at least, had a background of cross-country from the area." The NSPCC running at Dauntsey's School has now adopted the strategy

INTRIOUSHINDIONE FEMORED

IND PIETS FIRMED SICHERY

across the country. As advisers, they recruited three of Britain's most distinguished athletes — Bruce Tulloh, the 1962 European 5000 metres champion. David Hemery, the 1968 Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion who now runs motivational courses for businessmen; and Richard Nerurkar, World Cup marathon winner.

When he first met Mr Nerurkar in September 1994, the advice was clear. "It's a long way. Running for four-tofive hours is not something that I have ever done," Mr Loveday says. "Richard, you see, completes the distance in about 2 hours 10 minutes. However. Richard and the other two were all a tremendous help both with advice and inspiration."
Weighing 1112 stone, Mr

Loveday completed the 1995 event in four hours 25 minutes, the Swindon Six raised £37,000 and the camaraderie between the local runners became infectious. The friendship with one's fellow runners was not something that I had come across in any other sport before."

He ran again in 1996 and will run one more Marathon in 1997, for the Marlborough branch of the NSPCC, so that all his three children will havea medal. Family heirlooms, he jokily describes them.

"I also regard completing the London Marathon as the greatest personal achievement I have ever done. I am very proud of it. I feel very atterick (4)

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent This hand is an example of the use of suit-preference signals in No-Trumps. The declarer was Graham Kirby, devoted family man and good egg, playing in the Nottinghamshire teams.

Game all

+9742 • J 3 **+9972 eAJ85** 40 100 B YK7 +10954 ₩ 103 VA52 +AKQ72

BLA#

Contract: 3 NT.

After two passes Kirby opened 2 NT (20-22) and North raised to 3 NT. Kirby played low and won in hand with the ace. That was good play: if he ducks two rounds of hearts the defence will probably find out in time that declarer has turned a spade. strong diamonds, and so will

cash their spades. Now, how should declarer continue? There is a genuine line, to play a diamond to the jack and a club towards the jack, hoping East has king singleton or doubleton of clubs. But Kirby decided to play clubs from hand. He led the jack of clubs; when that held he followed with ace and another. When West wins the third

club, which heart should he play? In practice he led the eight. As East knew West had the nine from his opening lead of the ten, East interpreted the eight as a request for the lower ranking suit, i.e. diamonds. So

he returned a diamond, and Kirby had nine tricks. West should have continued with the nine of hearts when he won the king of clubs. That would have indicated his entry was in the higher ranking suit, and so East would have re-

What if West's hearts had been Q 10 9 7? He would have had to return the seven. Now East appears to have a problem - either West started with Q 10987 and is asking for a diamond, or he started with Q1097, in which case the seven has no particular significance. The answer is, East should play a spade - if West has an entry in diamonds declarer is unlikely to be able to take nine tricks without letting West in. The reverse

does not apply.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

TICKLENBURGS

a. A type of earthenware

c. A Middle Eastern town square

b. To roof a building

c. A pickpocket

THEEK

By Philip Howard

THROCK a. A traditional Irish

b. Regional slang for Blackbird c. A ploughhead

TRAVADO a. A Latin American tinker b. A sudden, violent storm c. A rock climbing harness

WINNING HOVE By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Hubner — Miles, Til-burg 1985. Although for many a. South African slang for spider b. A Wesphalian coarse linen years one of the world's very best grandmasters, the German Robert Hubner is equally well known in his academic career as a linguist.

How did he translate his advan-

tage here to victory?



BY RAYMOND KEENE DURSS CORRESPONDENT

Short leads

With two rounds to go in the Koop Tjuchem top grand-master tournament in Groningen, Holland, Britain's top ranked player, grandmaster Nigel Short heads the field by half a point, having despatched one of his main rivals. Jan Timman, the Dutch grandmaster, in the ninth round. Leading scores after nine rounds are as follows: Short 6: Timman and Van Wely 512; Gelfand 5; Hodgson, Leko, Shirov and Swidler 42. White: Nigel Short

Black: Jan Timman Groningen, December 1996

Petroff Defence Nt3 N#6 Nxe4 Nc5 e4 Bxb7 exd3 Bxd3 Bxd3 Be5 Re6 a5 Of6 Bxt5 Re6 a5 Finb8 3 d4 4 Bd3 8 Be2 9 Bxt3 Rbd2

Nb4 Nxc6 Rb1 4 a3 Rb2+ a2 Rxc6 Rb6 Rb5 Kh7 Diagram of final position

数 经 建仓 **沒 漢 選 類**

In a winning position Short's 42nd move was careless and Black could still have saved himself by playing 42 ... Rbl!

Hastings After the first round at Hastings, the UK's strongest tournament, Mark Hebden. Bogdan Lalie and Xie Jun of China, the former women's world champion, all lead with one point. The favourite, Michael Adams lost to Hebden, while in the battle between the two co-winners from last year, Bogan Lalic, the Croatian grandmaster, defeated Stuart Conquest. ☐ Raymond Keene writes on

Patsy Carr's five tips for healthy living chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

I Never feel deprived in your eating. Have a little of everything but not too much

2 Don't be a couch potato. Take some light exercise

3 Take some sort of continuous exercise, such as running or swimming, three times a week. Keep going for at least 20 minutes each time

and Cirencester Royal Agri-

cultural College. However,

like Mrs Carr, he did no

exercise after getting married

to his wife, Caroline, in 1978

and then having three child-

ren. "I got bogged down with work and the family." Like Mrs Carr his weight bal-

He got a place as a fund-

raising runner for the NSPCC

for the 1995 London Mara-

thon. Together with five col-

looned, reaching 17's stone.

4 By all means drink alcohol but always in

5 Be positive and believe in yourself in every mental and physical goal that you set yourself

Christopher Loveday's five tips to complete a marathon

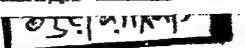
I If you are starting exercise and you are more than 40 years old, go to see your G.P. bebre you begin training. Find out whether there is any history of heart disease in your family before the visit

2 Losing weight is important. If you are very much overweight, join a slimming club

3 Take your running very steadily. Have one long run either at weekends or on yourdays off

4 Train with your colleagues. It alleviates the boredom on long rurs

5 In the months leading up to the marathon, enter two or three races including at least one half-marathon and wear the kit you will use on the day of the Flora London Marathon



RACING: GOLD CUP BECKONS A NOVICE SHOWING INCREASING MATURITY WITH EACH VICTORY

Dorans Pride leaps into reckoning

RACING CORRESPONDENT

DORANS PRIDE is as low as Cheltenham Gold Cup next March after an easy success over three vastly inferior opponents at Leopardstown on Sat-urday. William Hill has left his price unchanged at 16-1, a quote also offered by Coral, who cut him from 20-1.

Starting at 5-1 on, the 1995 Stayers' Hurdle winner did no more than he was entitled toin winning the Neville and Sons Novices' Chase by a distance, but with Imperial Call's interrupted preparation and One Man's stamina doubts, Dorans Pride's stock as a credible Gold Cup contender is rising rapidly.

Although his connections

have yet to commit themselves to steeplechasing's

Nap: BAROSSA VALLEY (2.35 Lingfield Park) Next best: Effervescence (1.35 Lingfield Park)

showniece, the horse's owner. Tom Doran, said: "He won't run in the Sun Alliance Chase and the Stayers' Hurdle is not my first preference as he has won that before."

Dorans Pride readily kept his unbeaten record in four chases on Saturday but it was his ability to alternate spectacular leaps with clever adjustments at his fences that suggests he is as good a novice chaser as has been seen in recent years.

His trainer, Michael Hourigan, acknowledged his talents. "I am more than pleased with him," he said. "He couldn't have done more. I would have preferred a better race but he frightened off the opposition. The faster the pace, the better he will jump." Hourigan said Dorans Pride is not a definite Gold



Dorans Pride and Broderick are the No I combination in the William Neville and Sons Novices' Chase at Leopardstown on Saturday

He is doing everything right. which means we can go anywhere with him."

In the short term that means an Ir£13,000 novices' chase over two miles five furlongs at Leopardstown on February 2. With Imperial Call and Danoli having the Hennessy Gold Cup at the same meeting on their agenda, the events of the day could redefine the Gold Cup betting market.

Before Imperial Call is put to that test, however, trainer, Fergie Sutherland,

2.35 MASTER BEVELED (nap)

DRAW: 6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

3.05 The Wyandotte Inn

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.35 BAROSSA VALLEY.

FORM FOCUS

BON SECRET 61 3rd of 9 to Walking Beach or Clarifer over counts and distance (AW) with ORAR-bill 186 Self. 2011 (1984) (188 beach of 189 beach of

1.35 MANNY BERNSTEIN CREDIT BETTING NURSERY HANDICAP

BETTING: 5-4 Elberoscence, 5-2 Millroy, 5-1 Island Prince: 7-1 Ros Lucy Ros, 25-1 Forgotian Times. FORM FOCUS

EFFERVESCENCE best tity Jacques 111 in 4-runner standen auction over course and distance (AW).

MILLERY from Bold Sorroy In a 5-runner residue
action over course and destance (AW) on perudimale start RUM LINCY RUM most record all-wea-

COURSE SPECIALISTS

20.6 15.2 13.4 13.0 12.7

JOCKEYS

D Holland D Holland S Walbroth A Culture A Chart

SPORTS SERVICE

RACING

Commentary

Call 0891 500 123

Results

Call 0891 100 123

Calls cost 45p per min cheap rate, 50p per min at all other times.

1.05 manny berinstein trade betting selling stakes

BETTRIG: 3-1 Box Secret, 7-2 Bayshot, 5-1 Flagsleft, 6-1 Red Rosty, 8-1 Smoot Assort, Arcators.

Handicap Chase at Leopardstown on January 19 for his

next outing.
"The race is only two miles three furlongs but there's nothing much else at that time and I want to run," Sutherland said. "He's completely recovered from his fall and I'm sure his jumping is not going to be a problem."

What A Question bounced back from her Ascot failure behind Ocean Hawk with an all-the-way victory over the odds-on Antapoura in the

The Mouse Morris-trained mare, third to Cyborgo in the Stayers, Hurdle last March, will be aimed at that race again with a warm-up in the Boardsmill Hurdle at Navan next month.

Although Istabraq may seem to be the main Irish candidate for the Sun Alliance Hurdle, the Mullins family are lining up to take him on. Noble Thyne, who beat Istabraq at Punchestown in November, held off Ask The Butler by a short head in a

Orchard Novices' Hurdle, a said. "He should come on a lot creditable effort considering that Paddy Mullins, his trainfrom that." There was a sad ending to

they made a sprint of it, and my horse is not a sprinter," Mullins said. His son, Willie, trained Jodesi to record a comfortable win in the maiden hurdle, but the Co Carlow-based trainer expects improvement, "Over hurdles he has left his bumper form well behind and the Sun

er. revealed that the six-year-

old had burst a blood vessel. "I

am happy with him because

the Ericsson Chase when the winner, Johnny Setaside, col-lapsed and died walking back to the parade ring. The Noel Meade-trained gelding, rid-den by Richard Dunwoody, had been a three-length winner from King Of The Gales. He carried me so bravely through the race it is a real shame. It was probably a shake and just collapsed

PROSPECTS TOMORROW'S MEETINGS LINGFIELD PARK: all-weather meeting

CHELTENHAM: Irozen (Inspection 3 00pm loday)

WARWICK: Irozen (Inspection 11.00em today)

Wolverhampton

Boing: standard 12.59 (7) 1. Murrey's Mezcia (J Brenvint, 10-1); 2. Manorie Rose (10-1); 3. Desert Invector (3-1 j-law) Leigh Crotiar 3-1 j-law, 10 mar. 38(, 1-4. J Byre. Totar 1980; 22.30, 22.90, £1.80. DF: £42.30 Tho £71.90 CSF £92.37. Tricost, £289.22. 1.20 (7) i, Kormasta (F. Nonon, 10-1), 2. Royal Castade (7-2), 3. Danelel Princess (3-1), French Kass 5-2 lav. 6 ran. 7, 3i J Wisson Tore \$10.50, £3.20, £2.20. DF: £40.70. CSF £41.58.

1.50 (7) 1. Elite Hope (G Carler, 7-2 lay); 2. Scoty Tern (6-1); 3. Mytons Mislaka (10-1) 9 ran 5-1, 2M. N Tinkler Tote E4-40; £1-30. 52.10, £4-40. DF £10.40. Trio £53.90 CSF £31.14 Tricasi £280.02

Placecot: \$10,739.60.

12.36 (2m 4 Indio) 1 Jodesi (D J Casey, 5-2); 2 Kilcoo Boy (4-1); 3 Storm Gern (6-1) Eton Gale 9-4 fav 14 ran, 71, 14-1 W Mulhar S Too; £1 60, £1 50, £2 10 DF: £4 40 CSF: £15.94 1.05 (2m 6t hote) 1 Noble Thyne (T P Treacy, Evens tay; 2 Asi. The Buller (9-4); 3 Buggy (20-1) 4 ran NR Jane Digby Sh hd, dist. W Mullins Tote: £1 90 DF, £3 40 CSF; £3 98

TRAINERS

Garabegh (25-1) 4 ian Disi, 261 Tole £1 20, DF £1 60 CSF £1 62

2.05 (3m hdle) I What A Question (C O'Dwyer, 5-2), 2 Antepours (4-7 lev), 3 Rampboon (20-1) 5 ran 4, 151 M Morras Tore (23.30: C1 80, C1 10 DF E1 80 CSF-E4 50 2.40 (3m ch) 1 Johnny Setaside (R Dunnoody, 2-1 lav); 2 Kng Of The Gales (16-1), 3 Opera Hat (7-2) 7 ran, NR-Ballyfine Lad 31, 151 N Meacle Tole 53.00; C1 30, C3.70, C1 50 DF C22 10. CSF, £27 54

Car. 127 54 3,15 (2m hdie) 1 Legal And Tender (R P Hogan, 33-1) 2 Rewy (11-10 lav), 3 Citidon Fog (5-2), 10 ran, NR Kawa-Kawa, 121, sh hd F Barry Tole £71 00; £12 10, £1 40, £1 40 DF £143 10 CSF £80 83 Tricast £143 17

2143 17 3.45 (2m 4/ fiai) 1 Callin Supreme (A C Coyle, 5-1); 2 Davenpon Banquet (4-5 tav), 3 As Royal (9-2) 7 nm NR Dusky Lamp, 449, 44 10ne: 126 50, 12 70, 12 50 DF-123 80 CSF £10 20 Newcastle meeting abandoned because of trost.

Casting around for top names in pantomime

o much for 1996; here is an alternative look at what may happen in 1997, a year in which reports of Sheikh Mohammed's renewed alliance with Henry Cecil remained unconfirmed...

JANUARY: Bored with the ongoing freeze, jumps trainers are cajoled into filming their own movie, starring Jeff King as Mister Oddy. David Nicholson as Musthaveaswig, Gordon Richards as The Grey Monk, Oliver Sherwood as Lentard and Kim and Tracy Bailey as Unholy Alliance. Production is halted early after Nicholson insists on playing all the parts.

FEBRUARY: The over-subscription of all-weather races at Southwell and Wolverbampton prompts Ron Muddle to consider building a racetrack on the moon. It is extremely customerfriendly," maintains a Brit-ish Horseracing Board consistent and there should be no problems with frost and late abandonments."

MARCH: After continuing problems with the sward. Cheltenham applies to transfer the Gold Cup to its cross-country course. Gordon Richards applies to be recast as McGregor The Third. The dilemma is resolved when Cheltenham elects to build fences inside the naddock. Runners must complete 53 circuits but Richard Hughes, booked to ride Sudden Spin, is unceremoniously jocked off.

APRIL: More than half the Grand National field is sensationally withdrawn just minutes before the start. It emerges that trainers failed to saddle up in time after lunching with the sponsors. Martell. The race is won emphatically by Coome Hill. Walter Dennis, who trains the horse, tells Des Lynam: "I turned down the invite to lunch, I'm more partial to a drop of Hennessy."

MAY: Ante-post punters are dealt another shocking blow when the plane carrying Godolphin's runners for the Newmarket classics mysteriously disappears over France. André Fabre, recenthim by Sheikh Mohammed. angrily denies hijacking the aircraft.

JUNE: The Derby is won by Kiss And Make Up (Hot Lips - Last Chance by All Is Forgiven), an unraced coit supplemented by Henry Cecil just days before the race. Curlosity is aroused by Sheikh Mohammed's presence alongside Cecil in the winner's enclosure. Cecil is hesitant: "The colt only came to me last week. That's it for him , he's already been sold to Japan and he leaves the yard tomorrow."

JULY: Willie Carson announces his retirement after winning the Edipse Stakes on Bahhare. Sheikh clearly distraught. "This is a part of Do Be Have.

sad day," the sheikh la-ments. "I asked Willie to name one of my two-yearold this year and he has not ridden it yet. He called it Initfakash - maybe he has enough now."

AUGUST: Martin Pipe starts the new jumps season with a flourish by winning 23 consecutive races, including 11 walkovers. "All winners are sweet." Pipe said. My target for the season is 366 winners. Chester thinks it is a Leap Year, and a winner a day keeps the stable jockey away."

SEPTEMBER: The St Leger, thrown open to horses of all ages this year, is won by Bradbury Star, unconsidered in the betting at 20-1. "We've tried him over all sorts of trips over fences," said the winning trainer, Josh Gifford, "I must admit this was just a prep race. The horse's target has always been the Newmarket Town Plate, followed by the Breeders' Cup Sprint."

OCTOBER: Frankie Dettori causes chaos when riding Longchamp. The pari mutuel system explodes under the weight of money for his last

JULIAN MUSCAT



Racing Commentary

mount, but officials are spared further embarrassment when the Britishtrained horse fails to beat the Calais blockade. Britain pulls out of the EC.

NOVEMBER: On his 62nd birthday, Lester Piegott surprises the racing community by declining the ride on Bosra Sham in the Japan Cup. "! was sorely tempted," Piggott revealed, "but my American contacts tell me Cigar may be brought back for the race and I'd like to keep my options open."

DECEMBER: Bored, once again, with the ongoing freeze, jumps trainers prepare a Christmas pantomime, starring Gordon Richards as Abbot Of Furness, Oliver Sherwood as Him Of Praise. David Nicholson as King Lucifer, and Kim Bailey and Nicky Henderson as Kimanicky. Production is halted as Sherwood. Nicholson and Henderson fight over the cameo role of Silver Wedge. Hamdan, who has retained Jenny Pitman. summoned Carson for ten years, is to restore order, plays the

LEOPARDSTOWN

THUNDERER

12.45 Eduardo, 1.15 Theatreworld, 1.45 Giint Of Eagles, 2.15 All The Vowels, 2.45 Time To Lead, 3.15 Banner Gale, 3.45 Premier Walk.

(7.30AM INSPECTION)

12.45 THREE ROCK MAIDEN HURDLE

(£3,767 2m) (13 runners) 2.5, for 211) (13 funities)

1 32-0 ATHAR BETHE 29 (6) it Meate 5-12-0 PC arriberty
2 #20 CAVALUER DYOR 329 A Morre 5-12-0 F Whools
3 5152 EDMARDO 18 (6) E O'Esady 7-12-0 T Treasy
4 1 GARRYS LODA 40 (6) T FOESAY 7-12-0 T Treasy
5 12/6 PAILS RIN 16 (6) W Larigan 7-12-0 L Cusack
6 -800 T Who SHOWAS 1885 J Dorns 5-11-9 D Brominy (3)
7 0000 GONE ALL DAY 25 P McHale 5-11-6 M Wilkinston
9 00-0 MINDOY RAY 251 M Habrod 5-11-6 M Wilkinston
10 Pr0- SARRAMS 582 J Partes 9-11-5 M A Couran
11 5000 FOVE WANDERBE 16 D McDarmon 5-11-1 D Evans
12 P-00 STROME AUCTION 77 W Fotpatrick 5-11-1 Browne (7)
17 KETHE RAP 91 McJates 6-11-1 T Marin (5)
4 Edwards 2-1 Caroller 60; 9-2 Sarry, Log, 7-1 Pauls Run 12-1 Afras Bethe 7-4 Educado 2-1 Canales d'Or, 9-2 Garrys, Loca, 7-1 Pauls Run 12-1 Arta Badhe Saltane, Ten Shoras, 20-1 others

1.15 DECEMBER FESTIVAL HURDLE

1 1412 COCKNEY LAD 29 (6.5) N Meado 7-11-7
2 0111 GUEST PERFORMANCE 30 (6.5) P Maybes 5-11-2
3 1022 HLL SOCIETY 40 (G) N Meade 4-11-2 ... R
4 1040 AMYASTA 16 (6.5) F damy 6-11-2
5 4000 SLAMEY GLOW 4 (F.G.) L Culture 5-11-2
6 1133 THEATREWORLD 16 (6.5) A 0 Brien 4-11-2 6-4 Cockety Ltd, 5-2 Theateworld, 3-1 Guesi Polormance 6-1 Hill Society 8-1 Mayasia, 25-1 Starey Glob

1.45 DALKEY BEGINNERS CHASE (£4.110 2m 3i) (12) | 1 | 00 ARCTIC BUCK 734 | 1 astre 7-12-0 | N Williamson 2 3-10 BARGARINAY 57 (6) Mrs 5 Branall 6-12-0 | N Williamson 3 1022 DWWN ALERT 58 (F 6) N Meader 7-12-0 | F Carberry 4 1130 RICHPALM 85 (65) F Floor 7-12-0 | F Floor 5 -12-6 EART SWERGALL 56 (65) F Floor 7-12-0 | T Insery 7 P-100 INDICARLIERA 22 M Morra 6-12-0 | M Morphy 7 P-100 INDICARLIERA 22 M Morra 6-12-0 | M Morphy 7 P-100 INDICARLIERA 22 M Morra 6-12-0 | M Morphy 7 P-100 INDICARLIERA 22 M Morra 6-12-0 | M Morphy 7 P-100 INDICARLIERA 22 M Morra 6-12-0 | C CO'DWYN 1 P-100 INDICARLIERA 22 M MORRA 6-11-12 | R Dominochty 1 D MILSTON MORRE 22 F O'Branty 6-11-12 | R Dominochty 1 D MILSTON MORRE 22 F O'Branty 6-11-12 | R Dominochty 1 D MILSTON MORRE 22 F O'Branty 6-11-12 | R Dominochty 1 D MILSTON MORRE 22 F O'Branty 6-11-12 | R Dominochty 1 D MILSTON MORRE 22 F O'Branty 6-11-12 | R Dominochty 1 D MILSTON MORRE 22 F O'Branty 6-11-12 | R Dominochty 1 D MILSTON MORRE 3-1 D MILSTON

9-4 Gian Ol Engles, 5-2 Dann Alen, 7-2 Naktan Khan, 6-1 Great Svengoli 7-1 Finchpalm, 14-1 Barqshamp, 16-1 Moon-Fog, 20-1 other: BLINKERED FIRST TIME. Lingfield Park: 1.05 Northern Chief 2 05 One Dream. 3 05 Windborn.

2.15 BALLINGLEA HANDICAP HURDLE

2.5, (or., c.lif) (11)
1 0001 LADY DAISY 18 (G) A Mulint 8-12-0 . A D'Shea (7)
2 8131 ANCENT HISTORIAN 9 (G.S) W Mulint 8-11-9 (Gen) —
3 3130 FRANCES STREET 29 (B.G.S) A DENOT 5-11-9 Genom
4 1012 AL THE VOWERS 3 J. N.S. Home 6-11-8 — —
5 3322 SAMING BOND 4 N Meade 5-11-6 P Contectly
6 3110 PRE DRIANED 16 (S) F Flood 4-11-1 F Root (7)
7 4102 COLLON LEADER 3 (F.G) A Marin 7-11-3 Mr G Bloot (7)
8 0516 FALLOW TRIX 9 (S) J. Co. 4-11-1 R DUMMOD'S
9 0000 MEMORSHT LAZ 43 SI HOMEN 6-10-12 F BOND 6-10-12 Magnific 10-12 Magnific 11-6 Lag Nas - 8-7 All The Weetle 6-1 Fences Creat 7-1

2.45 KNOCKNASHEE IN H FLAT RACE (£3,082 2m) (7)

CLIMAD A Mertin 5-12-0
TIME TO LEAD E O'Grady 6-12-0
D TOCHAR BOY 57 J Farming 5-12-0
TORICOMD PERK 2 A O'B cen E-12-0
SCOUT AROUND A Malary 4-11-9
SUBALINE CAT E Lyman 4-11-9
KISSAME GALE Y BOSENS 4-11-4 5-3 Time To Lead, 5-2 Scool Around, 7-2 Tormond Perk, 6-1 Nassario Gale, 7-1 Olumo, 10-1 Silmime Cel, 20-1 Tochai Boy

3.15 KILLINEY HANDICAP CHASE

1 31F0 DEE ELL 2 (G.S.) A Moore 10-11-12
2 3256 CREHELP DOPRESS 30 0F G) V Boxers 7-11-10
3 2220 BANDER GALE 37 (S) F Berry 7-11-9
6 BUF4 0LYMPIC D OR 23 (S) U Moore 8-11-6
6 7930 WALLYS RIM 37 (S) W Langan 9-10-11
6 2600 TOP RUM 16 (F) T O Verille 7-10-7
7 3364 VULPIN DE L'ALIGERE 57 Mrs S Bannall 9-10 2
8 Whetam [3) 7-1 Yugun De Laupere 3-1 Gee En 9-3 Cretietp Express. 5-1 Busines Gale, 7-1 Mallins Rom 8-1 Olympis D Dr. 14-1 Top Run.

3.45 GLENBOURNE I N H FLAT RACE

3.425. Zm) (b)
1.103. B. USHMIG SAND 9 (6.5) P. Leonad 7-11-7 Mr. T. Beattle (7)
2. 201- CLAY AND WATTLES 30F (6) P. O Leav 5-12-7 Mr. A. Wyse (7)
3. -ORD. DEDICAGED LAPSEN 18 (6.5) 2.0 Harts 9-12-7 Mr. J. Mr. J. O'Harts 17)
2. 2. 3. 4. 3. ## J O'Haire (?)

J O'Haire

☐ Frankie Dettori won on his first ride in South Africa on Saturday, when Lynton Hall, trained by Alex Laird, landed the opening event over five furlongs. Dettori is due to ride again tomorrow evening at Greyville in



track stages the only domestic racing today after the four scheduled National Hunt fixtures - at Carlisle, Newbury, Plumpton and Stratford were abandoned because of frost. in Ireland, the meeting at Leopardstown — rescheduled from yesinspection.

1.05 Swint Amoret

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.35 Millroy

2.05 Flawl

LINGFIELD PARK's all-weather

Catterick offers only bright spot in gloomy picture Hopes of a return to jumping action before the new year rest with Catteriek tomorrow. Milder weather in North Yorkshire has left the track raceable and no inspection is planned. "We are quietly optimistic,"

a spokesman said. Should Catterick survive terday - must survive a 7.30am champion jockey. Tony McCoy, is to Park could again save a blank day. meetings brings the tally of jumping

agent. Dave Roberts, said: "I have been on the telephone to several trainers and hope Tony will have a full book of rides."

Prospects for racing are bleak at the New Year's Eve meetings at Fontwell, Taunton and Warwick The all-weather card at Lingfield

vised meeting at Cheltenham on New Year's Day is already in doubt. Officials will inspect at 3.00pm today. diabolical forecast and the course is unraceable," the clerk of the course, Philip Arkwright, said.

Prospects are poor. There is a

make his first visit to the course. His Looking further ahead, the tele-

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

220 (fm 100yd) 1, Raheen (D Swoeney, 100-30); 2, Holders Hill (16-1); 3, Agont (3-1 law) 11 ran Bl. 11 W G M Turner, Tote. 53 80: 61 70; 63 90; 61 180. DF 650.70 Tno: 592.80. CSF 552.26

Tro: 92.80, CSF 552.26
2.50 (51) 1, Amington Less (\$ Sanders, 16-1), 2, Bolhy (33-1); 3, Sotonsan (33-1) Alaz 7-2 fav 13 ran N, 1 N P Evans Tote, £13-50, £4-50, £4-00, £1-7-50 DF- 267-00 Tro: £47-4.70 CSF £371.81 Trosst £7,735.95
3.20 (1m 11 79yd) 1, Greenspan (Dane O'Nett, 5-1); 2, Obelos (14-1), 3, Homestly 16-1), Bentico 100-30 tav. 12 ran, NF-Chadlesoft Lane 3, 31 W Murr. Tote £1-0, £1-80 CSF £70.94
3.50 (1m 4h), Canary Falcon (D Holland,

3.50 (1m 4l) 1, Canary Falcon (D Holland 9-11, 2, in The Money (8-11, 3, Mad Militan (5-1), Rassayet 5-2 (av. 12 ran 10, 11 F O'Suffivan, Tote, £10.80; £2.90, £2.90 £2.30, DF, £56.30, Tho £78.30 CSF £78.98 Tricast, £379.06 Jackpot: not won (pool of £11,092.89 carried forward to Lingfield Park today).

Dwedper to A35.80, Leopardstown Going: good to yielding

JUMP LEADERS

JOCKEYS

0930 168+ GENMENIARI NEWBURY 101 201 STRATFORD 102 202 CARLISLE 103 203 PLUMPTON 104 204 LINGFIELD 105 205 FULL PESULTS SERVICE 168

RACEUNE

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD Ricacant Rumber. Dose in bracieta. Sh-Roune larm of — lett. P — pulled up U — sussalad dide. B — brought down. S — eloped ep. R — imbaced D — disqualified). Horse S rezero. Dept siace lect onling. J if jumps, F is fiel, (B — sol. good to soil, heavy). Owner in braciots. Trainer. Age and weight. Ricke plus any allowance. C — course sectors. D — distance werens. CD —

2.05 MANNY BERNSTEIN NEW YEAR MAIDEN STAKES (£3,388: 77) (5 runners)

Union Carron route (et appoi) W Neur 3-6-0 Band D'Meil 89
5 AATATONIC 25 (Blandord Treptupphrads) J Toler 3-9-0 B Sander 3
0-0-0 ONE DREAM 132 (V) (Dee Dream Porters) B Sand 3-9-0 R Perham 0046303 RAMM 46 (C Williamson) Miss 6 kellemey 3-9-0 D Holland 95
0-83 25 (AVV 19 (C Permick) 61 Misors 3-9-0 F Norton 95
7 Rams 4.1 Zelans 8.1 Selan Julian Par France 93 terrenalis BETTING: 4-7 Rept. 4-1 Zelosa, 8-1 Exira Honz, One Drawn, 12-1 Autologic,

FORM FOCUS

EXTRA HOUR, recently pulled up over jumps, 188 77h of 8 to Contesser in claimer at Notlingham (No., good to limit). RAWI 91 3nt of 13 to Machine in claim of the pool to limit. RAMI 91 3nt of 13 to Machine in ratiod madden here (AW, 61, 25_AYA 61 3nd of 12 to Machine (AW, 1m), ONE DREAM 5351 4th of 8 Selection: KATATORIC 2.35 MANNY BERNSTEIN 26TH ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP

(£2,900: 1m 2i) (11 runners)

Long handicap: Princesse Lephard 7-7 BETTRNS: 3-1 Master Bereint, 9-2 Feither Dan, 6-1 Bigroom Volley, 7-1 No Pattern, Maradais, 8-1 Balers Daughter, Kedwick, 12-1 others. FORM FOCUS

BAROSSA VALLEY bast SLP JIBS (13th better off)
12 in 6-rouner claimer over course and distance (AW). FATHER DAN bast Ben Gum
(AW). MASTER BEVELED beating Read met in
14-rouner tated states at Warnick (1st, good to
Brins), Oct 96. NO PATTERN 11551 4th of 9 to Fisial
in aumitians; hardicap here (AW). In 41.
APOLLOWO, secont faller over hundles, best secont
Rat effort about 25st 55n of 10 to Unique Sadd in
handicap at Redear (1m 21, firm). MARADATA (51)
Selection: MASTER BEVELED (nap).

3.05 MANNY BERNSTEIN DON'T BE DISQUALIFIED MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-0: £2,458: 6f) (3 runners) 501 (3) 022322 THE WYANDOTTE MM 4 (8F) (6 Familian) R Hollimbeed 8-7 . F Lynch (3) (9) 502 (2) 202204 WINDBORN 19 (8) (Newmarkel Connections) C Allen 8-5 ... Martin Dayler (5) 81 503 (1) 20 KHARILIN NESAA 35 (N Usadkar) M Polytese 7-13 J Quitan 64

FORM FOCUS

THE WYAMOUTTE NW shart-hand that of Y in thing the process of distance (AW), Sep 96 KYAMRUM NISAA neck 2nd of Islande (B), (AW), WINDOWNEN best mount offer, 31 2nd of 12 and on partitional start to Euger To Please in salar over course and dis-3.35 MANNY BERNSTEIN CONDITIONAL / IN RUNNING HANDICAP

| Control | Cont Long handkap: Racing Telegraph 7-8, Sam Rockett 7-5, Whuppers Deligit 7-2. BETTING: 9-4 Zong Flyer, 3-1 Yet Again, 7-2 Person Conquest, 5-1 Rosing Telegraph, 10-1 Wayspers Orlight, 12-1 Half As lock, 20-1 Son Rocket.

FORM FOCUS PERSIAN CONQUEST beat Bagshot ½1 in 13-numer seller beas (AW, 1m 2) on perulbimate start. ZUMO FLYER cast Saturd start-hand in annuaria rated stakes own course and distance (AW). HALF 20 ib Northing Dollar to Edition to Editors at Brighton (1ps, 8m). YET AGAM, in good is 500) Selection, YET AGAM.

for: di

Life cap Price 9869 166 Life cap company (p) +/- % P.E (collicus) Company ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES 5.00 Bedgered Ept	6314 23 141	Capitalisa	ation, wee	k's chang	ge	Milet cap (million) Complety 20,20 Johnsone Fry 1,141,60 Utherty Infl 300,70 Los Forbiday	#iffra 75 48 293 1	r cap Bloot Company 640,70 Lloyds Chem 096 70 MFI 1907 30 Marks Seescont	Post Waty 76 60 47 % P.E 5037 2.6 191 126 - 37 27 173 45(9+ 9 3.0 19.0
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Oil and gas

production

increases

By MARTIN BARROW

UK OIL and gas production rose in November to the high-

est level since October 1995

and is expected to continue rising in the coming months.

and the strengthening of the pound curtailed the rise in re-

venue. Daily oil revenues fell

7.2 per cent on the month,

although the value of oil pro-duction was £8.7 million per day higher than one year ago,

according to the monthly Roy-al Bank of Scotland Oil and Gas Index published today. The oil index rose 2.2 per

cent to 164.0 in November and

was 1.7 per cent ahead year-on-year. Oil output grew by 58,000 barrels per day (bpd) to just above 2.7 million bpd.

However, falling oil prices

Takeovers by foreign firms 'distort data'

LABOUR will today mount an attack on the Government's claiming that takeovers of British companies by overseas businesses have given a misleading lift to the figures (Christine Buckley writes). According to Stephen Byers,

Labour's employment spokesman, 60 per cent of inward investment in 1995 came from takeovers by foreign investors.

Western Electricity by South-ern Company and Seeboard by Central and South West orporation accounted for a fifth of the inward investment.

The Sunday Telegraph. Ca-ble and Wireless, BAT

Industries, Microvitec, Medeva, Capital Shop-

ping Centres, Vardon, First Choice, Sears,

Global Group and HSBC

Hong Kong Growth unit

The Sunday Times: Bab-

cock International, Rank, Cettic Football Club, Stan-ford Rook, the biotechnol-

ogy company, United Biscuits, Aliders,

Mentmore Abbey, the sta-

tionery and storage firm,

The Independent on Sun-day believes the most

likely takeover targets are

and BAT Industries.

Boardrooms 'too biased towards the shareholders'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

executives and their boards

appear to believe that it is their

legal duty to concentrate atten-

tions only on pleasing current

THE prime duty of directors is to the company and not to their shareholders, a report

says today. In evidence to a Stock Exchange-backed inquiry into corporate governance headed by Sir Ronnie Hampel, ICI chairman, the Centre for To-

Wickes, Southern Electric,

Yorkshire Electricity, Sev-

em Trent and the water

sector generally, York-shire-Tyne Tees TV and the small regional ITV companies, EMI, General Accident, Commercial

Union, Premier Consoli-

dated and Harrisons &

Crosfield, the chemicals to

timber group.

The Mail on Sunday advises buying into WPP, the advertising group, Close Brothers, the merchant bank, Television Corp.

bank, Television Corp. Mosaic and Datrontech,

the computer products

distributor.

· Tobacco.

Imperial

by the Royal Society for Arts, says that directors' duties are owed to the company broadly, not to any specific "thirdmorrow's Company says chief party group.

In its evidence to the Hampel inquiry, the centre says: "For directors not to give SUNDAY THES FOR 1997

due weight to all the company's key relationships may well be a breach of fiduciary To do so, it says, may be to expose the company to undue financial risk as well as missing opportunities to add to

long-term shareholder value

through wider relationships

with other stakeholders such

as suppliers, customers and In a clear reference to possible new corporate law if Labour -- which broadly supports the stakeholder approach - wins the forthcoming election, the centre says:
If companies wish to avoid the imposition of a more prescriptive format of new company law, it is becoming

increasingly urgent that board

practice is brought closer into line with the spirit of the existing law."

The centre has also submitted as evidence interviews But the centre, established with 48 leading company chairmen and chief executives It urges the Hampel inquiry to move beyond the ap-proaches of the previous Cadbury and Greenbury inquiries into corporate gover-nance, and to concentrate on what it calls companies' "licence to operate".

The centre says: "Compliance with Cadbury and Greenbury does not fix this. What is needed is a clear framework for businesses to be transparent and accountable both about their values and about the value which they add. Businesses need to demonstrate both by their behaviour and by their disclosure that they prepared to live and be judged by those

Mark Goyder, of the RSA. says: "You can envisage code after code, and the public will still be fed up with business. What we are saying is, let's try to address the issues and the values where the problem lies which is business telling the public what it stands for."

values."



Apocalypse over. Peter Hardy, the Lloyd's underwriter, with Russian helicopters in Hanoi

Limited liability at Lloyd's

BY OLIVER AUGUST

separate insurance company,

whose shares begin trading

syndicate has created average

THE concept of limited liabil-ity is today being introduced to names at Lloyd's of London, who have lost millions of pounds in unlimited insurance deals.

The new system, developed by Hardy Underwriting will allow Lloyd's names to keep their funds in the insurance market without the risk of bankruptcy. Other similar schemes are likely to follow. Rules allowing the formation of a limited-liability company

annual profits of 29 per cent were passed by Lloyd's last since its inception in 1975. Mr Hardy said: "Syndicate 382 has been one of the more Peter Hardy, who runs Syndicate 382, has created a

on the Alternative Investment writing team that has worked Market today. Hardy Under-writing Group was priced at together for many years." Names at Syndicate 382 can 145p per share, giving it a market capitalisation of switch their Lloyd's funds into AlM stock. They will receive £10.65 million. Syndicate 382 dividends and profit from is primarily insuring marine rises in the share price and, most importantly, be safe and aviation ventures. The from bankruptcy.

Gas production increased by more than one third during November to 10.3 million cubic feet per day and the gas index rose 35.6 per cent to 304.1, lifting it 15.4 per cent ahead of November 1995.

. Brent crude prices fell 4.8 per cent in November to \$22.97 a barrel, although prices were still 36.5 per cent higher than a year ago. The sterling price fell 9.2 per cent consistently profitable syndi-cates at Lloyd's with an underbecause of depreciation of the pound against the dollar. In sterling terms, the price of oil is up more than 28 per cent year-on-year. The effect of falling oil prices and a stronger pound was that daily oil revenues fell 7.2 per cent on the month to £37.3 million.

ALTERNATIVE DEVESTMENT MARKET 1.5 0.4 13.1

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4.02 Oracine Media
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WORD-WATCHING

(c) The share-beam or ploughhead, ie the beam in horse-drawn ploughs which carries the share. From the old English word of old origin. "On the end of the throck the ploughshare is fixed,"

(b) A sudden violent storm of wind and rain with thunder and lightning a tornado. From the past participle of the Portugues travar to twine and twist." A travado is a heavy squall, with sudden gusts of wind, lightning, and rain, on the coast of North America; like the African tornado."

(b) A kind of coarse linen cloth. A toponym from Tecklenburg, the town and county in Westphalia, once noted for its manufacture of linen. "the right Ticklenburgs are almost as strong again as the Ozenbricks [Osnaburgs]. There is not many Cloths sold in England that hath so great Consumption as this."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE l Re6! fxe6 2 8xh6 and White will win quickly. One possible line is 2 ... c4+ 3 Khl exd5 4 Bxg7+ Kg8 5 Bxf8+ Kxf8 6 Qh8+ winning. CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6917 (+0.0249) German mark 2.6311 (+0.0412) Exchange index

95.6 (+1.5) Bank of England official close (4p STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2795.8 (+5.4)

FTSE 100 (b) To roof (a building) with stone, slate, tiles, shingles, lead, or the like. A collateral form of thatch, "Water is gude for mony a purpose, although ye're a' aware we canna theek Kirks wi't. 4091.0 (+13.4) **New York Dow Jones** 6560.91 (+76.51) Tokyo Nikkei Avge 19369.04 (-321.42)

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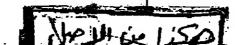
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A share in **New England**

A TASTE of New England is coming to the City. A 78-seater restaurant is to open in Lower Thames Street in April. reflecting the region's flavours, from lobster sandwiches and chowder, to crab cakes and clam bake. Mittelman Caradoc-Hodgkins, the architects. have kept the polished mahogany panelling and arch windows of the former merchant bank building, incorporating the style of a seaboard yachting fraternity. Spear-headed by David Wilby, executive chef for Anthony Worrall-Thompson until recently, The Chartroom Restaurant Company is seeking investors for 46,000 £1 Ordinary shares at £6 each.

French connection

THE London offices of Regent Pacific, the Hong Kong fund manager, should be interesting to visit in the new year after the delivery of an "installation" by Dominique Blondean, the French artist. The piece involves flashing lights, a few snipped Coke cans and dabs of paint. No-one at Regent has been brave enough to unwrap it yet.

A BUSY time of year for Michael Hardern, the arch building society carpetbagger. When Hardern relaxes, he tells me, he reaches for his essential reading -the Building Societies Bill.

Busy calendar

LOOKING through Ernst & Young's attractive calendar I am left wondering whether the beancounters actually spend any time at their desks. In January alone, there is the London International Boat Show, the Holiday Show, the Australian Tennis Open, the Rugby Union Five Nations. the Superbowl...

the second second

Entrepreneurs with that extra golden touch

Jon Ashworth on Britain's growing band

> of serial millionaires

he fast-paced Eighties gave rise to a new phenomenon - the serial millionaires. Publicans, sportsmen and computer nerds made fortune after fortune, striking lucky with ideas that caught the popular imagination. The past vear has seen more examples than ever of these golden entrepreneurs - and the pace shows no sign of slowing. Sir Terence Conran and

Richard Branson are among dozens of individuals to make their first million and then return to repeat the formula with similar success. Conran, 65, who founded Habitat in 1964. and built the giant Storehouse chain during the Eighties, did the same with restaurants in the Nineties, creating a gastronomic empire that continues

Problems at Butler's Wharf dented Conran's fortune — estimated at about £50 million but the success of Quaglino's, Mezzo and other fashionable venues, have secured his reputation as a serial millonaire.

Some of it is down to fate the National Lottery and National Savings have created nearly 600 millionaires between them — but a handful create their own luck. Some of the best examples are in the fertile territory of theme pubs and high street eateries. Few can match the success

of Michael Cannon, who struck lucky for the first time in 1993 when he made £23 million on the sale of Devenish, his pub company. Hungry for more, he founded the Magic Pub Company and sold out to Greene King two years later for nearly £200 million. Cannon started in 1975 with a half-share in a pub in Bristol. Another prime contender is David Bruce, who sold the Firkin chain of pubs to Midsummer Leisure for £6.6 mil-

On the ball: David Whelan switched from football to business Conran: gastronomic empire

the Slug & Lettuce chain. Hugh Corbett is a millionaire three times over, founding Slug & Lettuce in the Eighties and then returning with a chain called Harvey Floor-bangers. That was sold in 1992, netting £4.5 million for Corbett and his partner. Corbett is now building a London-

based chain of Tup pubs. Those still contemplating their next move include Derek Mapp, founder of Tom Cobleigh, the northern-based pub chain. He started with one pub in 1992 and recently sold out to The Rank Group for £95,6 million, making £6.4 million on the deal.

Roger Myers and Karen Jones cashed in July when Whitbread bought their Peliion in 1988. He is now the can Group, owner of Dome hurdles champion, branched radio and soft drinks in a loose

million. The deal left Myers holding about £3 million in shares and options. Jones held a stake worth £2.7 million.

Sport, too, has yielded its serial stars. David Whelan, the former Blackburn Rovers defender, built a small supermarket chain in Wigan after a broken leg in the 1960 FA Cup Final curtailed his top-flight footballing career.

He sold out to Wm Morrison for EL5 million in 1978, then paid £12,000 for JJ Broughton, a 75-year-old Wig-an sports company. He built JJB Sports into Europe's largest independent sports retail-er, making £13.5 million when it came to the stock market in November 1994.

Alan Pascoe, the former Commonwealth 400 metres MORAG PRESTON | single largest shareholder in and Café Rouge for £133 into sports marketing after association under the Virgin





quitting the track in 1978. He sold Alan Pascoe Associates for £7.5 million in 1986, then bought it back for £1.5 million six years later. Today, Pascoe is worth at least £5 million.

David Lloyd, the former Davis Cup tennis player, made £20 million when Whit-bread bought David Lloyd Leisure in 1995. He opened his first club in Heston, west London, in 1982, and went on to build a fast growing health and leisure portfolio.

Perhaps the greatest British serial millionaire is Richard Branson, who started off selling records in the Seventies and went on to build a successful empire, Branson, 46, has modelled his Virgin Group on a Japanese keiretsu, linking airlines, financial services.

umbrella. Debt has not been an issue since 1992 when Branson sold Virgin Music to Thorn EMI (as it then was) for £560 million.

Branson's worth was recently estimated at EL6 billion, ahead of Paul Raymond, the soft-porn publisher and Soho property owner, and David Sainsbury, head of the supermarket family, Since 1984. Virgin's revenues have grown from £50 million to £1.5 billion. Branson's family trust has the biggest stake in Virgin. Some have yet to prove their mettle. Tim Waterstone,

founder of Waterstones, the book chain, returns in 1997 with a chain of all-in-one childrens' shops. The first Daisy & Tom outlet, backed in part by DC Thomson, publisher of Beano and Dandy, will open in London in the summer. The shops will feature educational toys, videos and clothes, along with a "soda fountain" for thirsty young-sters. Waterstone sold out to WH Smith for more than £40 million in 1993.

The number of millionaires in Britain has doubled in the past five years, fuelled by rising property values and spiralling stock markets. About 200 new millionaires have been created every week. although how many actually have hard cash to throw around is another matter.

property and shares make up 61.5 per cent of a typical estate on death, according to the Inland Revenue. Only 26.8 per cent was made up of cash and the rest comprised insurance policies, loans and house hold goods. Based on these figures, a sizeable number of Britain's more than 100,000 millionaires are tycoons in name only

That said, the National Lottery creates two or three genuine millionaires every week and a steady stream of executives continue to benefit from enormous boardroom

The tradition of the small entrepreneur building a business then selling out for millions of pounds is alive and well. Some of them come back for a second round.

TOMORROW The utility millionaires

To relatively better times

t was not an exceptional year for the gilt-edged market in 1996, measured either in absolute or relative terms. The new year promises greater relative performance. According to our annual equity-gilt study the gilt re-turns, adjusted for inflation. placed 1996 in the third quartile of results recorded since 1918. Relative to other bond

markets, particularly those of our European neighbours, the results were uninspiring. This should not have been a surprise: this column warned, exactly one year ago, that the UK's budget deficit outlook did not compare favourably with that of our G7 counter-

parts over the short term. Despite robust economic growth the UK's budget deficit has been a disappointment. The problem appears to come from the revenue side and the November Budget set out to collect higher corporate tax and VAT payments.

Progress has been made but this does not appear to be taken into account in the current spread of gilt yields over those in other G7 bond markets. The size of these spreads is beginning to look like an anomaly, which will be the focus of international in-Although there are under-

standable concerns about inflation and hence interest rates in the UK these do not carry the same warning signs as

For example, there is a growing awareness that those economies that seem most likely to form the core membership of EMU are no longer paying investors any significant risk premium for something going wrong. The UK, by contrast, is carrying a very high risk premium.

Many domestic commentators would argue that this is required to provide payment for a greater inflation risk in the years to come. There can be no doubting the UK's troubled inflation past. Neither should we ignore excess money supply growth. With broad money supply growing at nearly twice the rate of

nominal income growth, con-cern is warranted. Memories of the late Eighties remain vivid since similar conditions preceded the consumer boom of 1988. But whereas the excess liquidity was then spent and flowed overseas - both proving to be inflationary - there seems a greater chance this time that this excess money will be saved. Attitudes to savings appear

to be changing and a current account which is virtually in balance, in contrast to the deficit equivalent to 3.5 per cent of GDP recorded in 1988, suggests that national savings rates are different. We also have a more open

debate about interest rates which may be extended by a Labour Government into a genuinely independent Central Bank. Risk premia applied to the UK may not be as large if this occurs.
All this presupposes that we

can trust the data presented to us. Yet another lesson of the Eighties was that the national accounts data underestimated the underlying economic growth rates and hence led to monetary tightening coming later and needing to be more extreme. Cross-sectional research is indicating a different approach to discretionary saving that may suggest we are in danger of making a different mistake in this cycle, namely, overestimating nominal demand expectations.

But absence of hard evidence and our past experiences would argue that a reasonably high risk premium should remain. I doubt that it needs to be as high as at present (185 basis points relative to Germany at the time of writing). I also believe that many overseas investors regard this payment as more than adequate for the risks taken. Next year should therefore begin with gilts finding relative favour even if the policy tightening expected acts as a constraint on how far gilt yields can fall.

MICHAEL HUGHES

For, and not for, children

Riddley Walker, Radio 4, 7.45pm. The Box of Delights. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

Any vestiges of festive bonhomie you might have been lucky enough to cling on to will start withering away after the first 15 minutes or so of Dominic Power's dramatisation of Russell Hoban's novel. This is nightmare stuff, set in a lawless post-holocaust Britain where famished parents eat their babies. You would never believe that this same Russell Hoban wrote classics of children's literature such as The Mouse and his Child. For another adult's re-creation of the anything-is-possible world of children, listen to John Peacock's two-part adaptation of John Masefield's superb fantasy The Box of Delights, with Donald Sinden magnificently over the top as the archivillain Abner Brown.

The Emerald Affair. Radio 2, 10.30pm.

Cat-like, Harry Lime had another eight lives left after getting his just desserts in the Vienna sewers in The Third Man. A minimum of eight lives, actually, because the old Light Programme of the BBC ran 52 episodes of Lime's further adventures in the 1950s Orson Welles, desperately needing cash to finance his cinema version of Orhello, was happy to play the resurrected crook. His voice was not the only feature common to both Carol Reed's film and the BBC radio series. The dust of postwar Vienna was dusted off Anton Karas's zither and it was once again out to evocative use. it was once again put to evocative use.

RADIO 1

8,00arr Revin Greening, includes at 7,30 Newsbeat 12,00 Davie Paance 3,00pan Mark Goodier 7,00 Newsbeat Raview '98. The Ritchie looks back at the year's events through music, news, and sport 8,00 Priority Niight Estravisgenza. Showcase of talent to emerge in 1997, disci from the Golders Green Hippodrome, North London 12,00 Mary Anna Hiotois 4,00am Chartie Jordan

6.00em Nick Bernsclough 7.30 Sarah Kerniedy 9.30 Alex Lester 11,30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Durn'ts Best, of the Guests 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Malcolm Laycock 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 First Ladies of Jazz. With Claire Martin, Honor Hefferman and the BBC Big Band 10,00 No Minor Chords, André Previn reads from his autobiography 13/0 13/0 The Description of the Previn reads from his autobiography Previn reads from his autobiography (1/4) 10.30 The Emerald Affair. See Choice 11.00 Blob Hamis 1.00em Adrian

8.06em Entertainment '96 6.00 - The Breekfast Programme 8.36 This Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.05 Ruscos on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Edra 7.35 Sportstrack 8.05 Sports Review of the Year: A look back at the best of the action from 1998 10.06 Class Wenters 11.00 Ngirt Edra 11.25 News Wesk Alons, A drame set in a toothell club by Ed Thompson (1/5) 12.05em The Other Side of Midnight from Hong Kong 2.05 Up All Night

5.00mm Early Breakdest 7.00 Paol Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 2.00pm Torniny Boyd 4.00 Drivetime, with Peter

All times in GMT. News on the nour.

5.30am Europe Tooly, 6.30 Europe
Tooley 7.15 Off the Shell 7.30 The
Virtage Chart Show 8.10 Words of Fath.

6.15 International Question Time 8.65
World Business Report 9.15 Anything
Goes 9.45 Sport 10.30 BBC English

10.45 Off the Shell 11.30 Complius Goes 9.45 Sport 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shell 11.30 Ornsbus 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 British Today 12.30 Andy Kershaw 2.05 Outlook 2.30 John Peel 3.05 Sport 3.15 The Learning World 3.30 Ornsbus 4.15 World Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 British Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 British Today 4.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sport 6.30 Custa. Unquite 7.01 Outlook 7.25 World Business Pagort 9.15 British Today 9.20 Sound Business 2.15 British Today 9.20 Sound Today 10.45 Soort 11.10 Take Five Today 10.45 Sport 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Record News 11.30 Multitrack 12.30am Global Concerns 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Fath 2.30 Omnibus 3.15 Sport 3.30 Mandan Festure 4.30 Europe Today

4.00 ms Mark Griffiths 6.00 Miles Read 8.00 Herry Kelly 12.00 Margaret Howard 2.00 ppm Concerto. Roalds Delnis Little Red Riding Hood 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newshight 6.30 Soneta. Vivaida (Oboe Soneta in C mejor RV 779) 7.00 Celebrity Choice (r) 8.00 Evening Concert. Vivaida (Violin Concerto in E, Op No 1, Spring); Violin Concerto in E, Op No 3, Autumnt Violin Concerto in F minor, Op 8, No 4, Winter, Violin Concerto in G. minor, Op 8, No 21, Summer); 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00 mm Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.80em Jersmy Clark 19.90 Grahem Dens 1.00pmr/Altot Johnson 4.00 Nicky Horris 7.00 Paul Coyle (Fill) / Richard Porter (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00em Randal Lee Rose

6.90mm On Air, with Penny Gore.

Chinar (Seven Elizabeman Lyrica); Beriloz (Reverle et Caprice, Op 8)

8.60 Morning Collection, with Catriona Young, Includes Zaveter (Violan Concerto in E. Op 1 No 5); Verd (Ave Maria); Tchalkovsky (Symphony No 1 in G minor, Winter Deydramms)

10.00 Musical Encountware, with Edward Stateman, Includes Mozet (Fantasia in C minor); Sibelius (Lemminkeimen and the Meiders of Saeri, Legends); Cheusson (Chansons Perpetuele); Mozer (Symphony No 1 in E fiet)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Leonard Bernstein

1.00pm News; Chopin by Arrangement, Introduced by Jerany Nicholes, Includes Seint-Saèns a Mo-piano version of Piano Sonsta No 2 in 8 list minor, Op 35 (2/4)

version of Prano Sonata No 2
in 8 flat minor, Op 35 (2/4)
2.00 The BBC Orchantras. BBC
Philhamonic, under Manfred
Honack, With Leon
McCawley, plano. Schubert
(Overture: Posamunde);
Mczart (Plano Concerto No 9
in E flat); Mahler (Symphony
No 1)

No 1)
3.45 Volces: Christmee Party (r)
4.30 Lestey Leeps In. An
exploration of the recording
career of the secontrolist
Lester Young. With Russell
Davies (r)
5.00 Music Machine, with Tommy
Pearson
5.15 Interpretations on Record:

5.15 Interpretations on Record: Vivald's Four Seasons. With Harry Haskell (r) 8.20 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley laks to the

playwright David Hare. Includes Beethoven 7.30 A Christmas Collection, A Testive consect of 17th-century German music given this month in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford. The Academy of Ancient Music directed by Paul Goodwin. Includes Schmeiger (Pastorial): Gebrief (Canzona a B No 11): Weckmann (Sonsta a 4): Arbeau (Carol): Thelie (Sonata a 4): Praetorius (In Duici Jubilo): F. Usper (Sonata a 8) 9.05 Sald Short Stories:

(Sonsta a 8)

9.05 Said Short Stories:
Reginald's Christmes Revels.
Read by Peter Howell (r)

9.10 The BBC Orchestras. BBC
Scottist Symptomy
Orchestra, under Tan Duri.
With Vaidine Anderson,
aoprano. Tan Dun (Death and
Fire — Diafoque with Paul
Klee); Chou Wen-Chung
(Landscapes); Variese
(Offrandes)

16.00 Ensemble. Introduced by
Panny Gore. Marianne
Thorsen, violin, Julian Millord,
plano. Mozart (Stx variations
on Hélas, J'ai Pardu Mon
Amant. K360); Besthoven
(Violin Sonata in A. Op 47,
Kreutzer)

10.45 Mibring ft. Mark Russall and
Robert Sandell present a
choice of listeners' lavouring
tracks heard on the show
during 1996

11.50 Composer of the Week:
Tottalicovalor (r)

11.50 Composer of the Week: Totalicovsky (r) .12.30em Jezz Nofes, with Digby Fairweather 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Madeod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 8.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 8.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 Christmas Truce 8.59

Christmas Truce 8.58
Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week
(FM), with MeNyn Bragg and
puests
9.00 Test Match Special:
Zimbebwe v England (LW).
Coverage of the final day's
play in Harara
10.00 News; Dear Diary (FM)
10.00 Daily Service (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Derek Cooper's Necessary

10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Derek Cooper's Necessary
Pleasures (FM). A look at
the world of cats
10.30 Test Match Special (LW)
11.00 My Brother Melies the
Noises at the Movies (FM).
Film historian John Hundey
trace the history of sound
effects (r)

trace the history
effects (r)
11.30 The Old Curtosity Shep
(FM). Elizabeth Proud's
dramatication of Charles
Dickers's classic. With Denis

Dictors's classic. With Danis Quilley (4/5) 12.00 News; You and Yours (PM). With Lesley Riddoch 12.25ptn Noel Coward — from His Diaries: Politics and Religion. Simon Cadeli reads extracts from the calebrated daries (3/3) (r) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.07 Test Hatch Special (LW)
1.40 The Archers (FM) (r) 1.85
Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; The Box of Delights,
See Choice
3.30 Comparing Notes with
Brian Kay. Peter Kemp Joins
Brian Kay to take a look at the
hes and musical styles of the
Strauss family.

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

4.00 News 4.05 Daring to Be the Dane. A look at Michael Meloney as he prepares to piss Hamlet in Greenwich (r) 4.45 Short Story: Clap Hands, Here Comes Charlie, by Beryl Berithole, Read by June Barrie 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping 5.55 Weather

Wester South Press State Country through Press Country The Champagne Area. Kevin Cornolly continues his journey through Prence (r)
6.30 News Cuiz of the Year, with

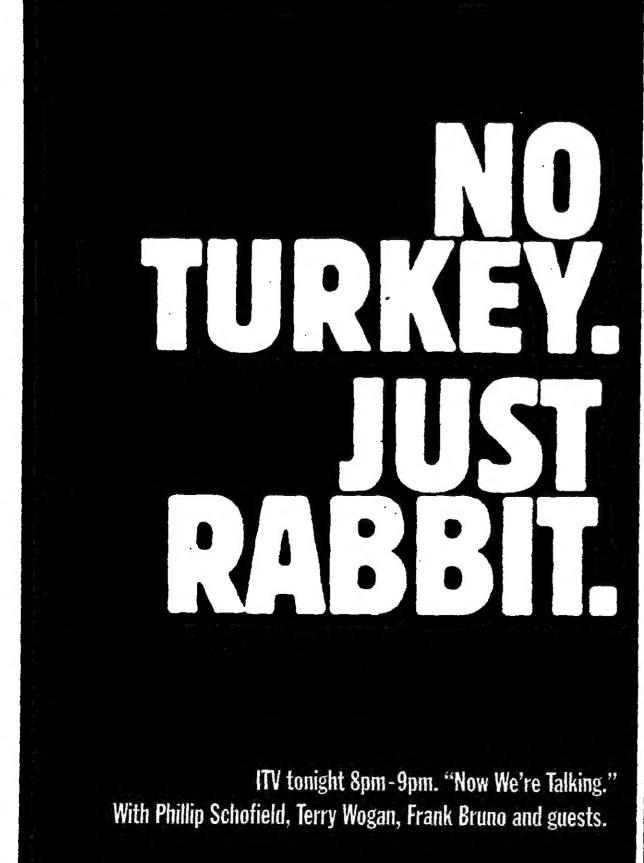
Simon Hoggart, Francis Wheen, Andy Hamilton, wheen, Andy Henston,
Jeremy Hardy and Times
columnist Alan Coren (f)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Feed Programme, with
Derek Cooper (f)
7.45 The Monday Play: Riddley
Walker, See Choice
9.45 Inside the Hood, A look at
the history of the appropriate see

the history of the anorak 9.59

the history of the anorak 9.59
Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Scarlet
and Black, by Standhal,
Read by Greg Wise (1/10)
11.00 Sentimental Journey,
Comedy impressano Malcolm
Hardee revisits Greenwich
with Arthur Smith (6/6) (f)
11.30 Rent II, by Lucy Flamery,
Comedy staring Barbara
Flynn, Patrick Barlow and
Linde Polen (r)
12.00 News incl 12.27am approx
Weather
12.30 The Late Barbara

Weather
12.30 The Late Book: Through
the Looking Glass, by Lewis
Carroll, Adapted by David Self
and read by Alan Bennett

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Of stones, bones and time-lapse trickery

Vilkie Collins may have written the first detective story, but the Sergeant uff we met in last night's adaptaion of The Moonstone (BBC2) was the umpteenth television detective to grace our screens. When Collins created him, Cuff was an original. Now he is not. This was

We had met his type too many times before — the self-confident outsider, as happy talking to the lady of the house as he is to her maid. "What's to be done next?" asked Betteredge the butler. "I'm going to look at the rose garden." replied Cuff. "For clues?" "No. I'm just fond of roses." Ah, we mused, the engaging eccentricity which no television detective dare be without. When Collins wrote that, it. too, was a first. Last night it was not. If Cuff had arrived driving a maroon Mark II Jaguar or departed on the back of Hetty Wainthropp's scooter ... well, none of

us would have been a bit surprised. As I say, it was all very unfortunate.

a habit of playing butlers, and Antony Sher, giving it his typical all as the cunning Cuff. Greg Wise prised. As I say, it was all very unfortunate.

It was also unavoidable, especially if you insist on boiling down Collins's complex masterpiece into a little over two hours of television. The BBC, however, insisted and we had to live with the consequences, such as characters no longer engaging in polite conver-sation but explaining a couple of chapters-worth of plot to each

Too sour, do you think? Perhaps so. For surely some Wilkie, albeit cruelly abridged Wilkie, is better than no Wilkie at all and, for all my reservations. I did enjoy part one of Kevin Elyot's two-part adaptation. There were lots of coaches and pianos and buckets of not altogether convincing rain. This, I suspect, means it was real. But, more important, there was an excellent cast, led by Peter

Vaughan, who seems to be making

and Keeley Hawes made a handsome couple as Franklin Blake and Rachel Verinder, before the disappearance of the sacred diamond put an end to their relationship, pretty much before it had begun. In the rush to get on with the story, it seemed to me that not enough time had been allowed for their budding romance. Collins's lénouement, as I presume we

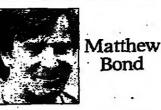
oving swiftly on, can I humbly suggest that if your Christmas break extends to new year, you spend the next three lunchtimes watching the Royal Institution Christma Lectures (BBC2), about fossils. If the first two are anything to go by.

discover in tonight's concluding

instalment, is not the most satisfy-ing of final solutions and their love

story has a crucial part to play.

REVIEW



they will be outstanding. At first meeting, Professor Simon Conway Morris is not the most promising of lecturers, having the looks and verbal delivery of a young John Major. But in terms of clarity of thought, he leaves the Prime Minister dead and mineralised.

Conway Morris is also a brave man. In the second lecture yesterday, he began by dashing the by filling the lecture theatre with

Jurassic Park was just not going to happen. The DNA contained in fossilised amber remains had been found to be contaminated, the code for dinosaur life irretrievably corrupted. I waited for some of the younger members of his audience to be led from the lecture theatre sobbing. But nobody moved. Conway Morris, you see, had promised that dinosaurs could still live

Ouite brilliantly, he began to show how. His aim is to show that there is a lot more to palaeontology than bashing a lump of rock with a hammer and chisel. His approach is a multi-disciplinary one, calling on bits of chemistry, physics and biology to fulfil his original promise of bringing the bones back to life. Some of the science must go over the heads of his traditionally young audience, but when he finishes - as he did yesterday - something-o-saur, I don't think there will be many complaints.

or should there be in the wake of The Restless Year (BBC2, Saturday), the one new contribution to the channel's rather indulgent Natural History Night. Time-lapse photography is considered old hat these days — seen one cloud scud, seen 'em all. Then, a film begins with an opening shot so breathtaking you have to watch the rest just to work out how a camera can pan through 180 degrees of a Cotswold landscape and follow the course of the four seasons at the same time. I think I got there eventually ... but they must have cheated with the sky, mustn't they?

Tim Shepperd is the man who knows. Having perfected the tech-niques during the making of *The Private Life of Plants*, Shepperd turned his cameras on the Cots-

just time-lapse — we were also treated to speeded-up milking parlours and slow-motion March hares - but it was that technique that stuck in the memory. True, some of the images of leaves expanding shoots jostling and mushrooms doing whatever mushrooms do were old hat. But others, such as molehills appearing in a water-meadow or marrows growing in a vegetable garden were both fascinating and

Despite the soothing tones of Norman Painting, aka Phil Ar-cher, Richard Mabey's script written presumably before his Flora Britannica filled a million Christmas stockings and put such hack work behind him - did occasionally jar. Cricket may be many things, but "an elaborate metaphor for the whole cycle of summer growth" is surely not one of them. Ask Mike Atherton.

7.00em NEWS (2431301) 7.10 Joe 90 (7945108) 7.35 Busy World of Richard (7945108) 7.38 Busy World of Nichard Scarry (1650585) 8.00 News (5099740) 8.10 Barney (4559011) 8.15 Peter Pan (7462301) 8.35 Legend of Prince Vallant (6485214) 9.00 News (3638092) 9.05 Incredible Garnes (4260108) 9.30 Record Breakers (93837) 10.00 Playdays (8465547) 10.20 William's Wish Mellicotary (0629917)

lingtons (9623818) 10.30 FILM: The Barefoot Executive (1971) Stapstick Disney comedy, with Kurt Russell (23805030)

12.05pm THE MUPPETS With guest, country singer Garth Brooks (2149894) 12.30 WIPEOUT (97653)

1.00 NEWS (T) (99176856) 1.13 REGIONAL NEWS (82675450) 1.15 NEIGHBOURS (T) (58645276) 1.35 NEIGHBOURS: 10TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL A behind-the-scenes docu-

mentary celebrating the popular Australian scap (1) (r) (7246547) 2.15 THE WORLD'S STRONGEST MAN (T)

2.45 FILM: The Boy Who Could Fly (1986) with Lucy Deskins and Bonnie Bedella. A young girl discovers her autistic neighbour is hiding an amazing secret Directed by Nick Castle (1) (95656924)

4.30 THE WORLD OF PETER RABBIT AND FRIENDS (7036498) 4.55 Newsround Review of the Year (T) (1210585) 5.25

5.50 NEIGHBOURS (f) (T) (820905) 6.15 NEWS (T) and weather (430112) 6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (T) (696769) 6.45 WINTER ON ONE (485740) 6.50 THIS IS YOUR LIFE (1) (488653)

7.30 A MONKEY FOR ALL SEASONS David Attenborough nerrales a film about Japan's macaque-monkeys (r) (T) (189)-8.00 EASTENDERS Grant tries to put the romence back into his marriage (T)

8.30 CHEF! Everton comes to the rescue series (T) (1818)

9.00 NEWS (T) regional news and weather

Novelist Goldie Hawn swears revenge ageinst actress friend Meryl Streep for posching her flancé, even entertaining thoughts of murder, but things take a bizarre turn when they each discover the secret of immortality. Also starring Bruce Willis and Isabella Rossellini. Directed by Robert Zemeckis (T) (862585)

11.05 REVIEW 96 Justin Webb reviews some of the year's major news stories (1) (531382)

12.25mm THE MRS MERTON SHOW CHRISTMAS SPECIAL (r) (1) (2823290) 12.55 FILM: Billion Dollar Brain (1967) Michael Caine as secret agent Harry Palmer, who comes out of retirement to take a mysterious canister to Finland and becomes involved in an American megalomaniac's bid to take over the

VideoPkus+ and the Video PiusCodes VideoPtist+ and the VideoPtist-Orde.

The numbers next to sech TV programme listing are Video PtisCode** numbers, which allow you to programme your video recordinate instantly with a VideoPtist+** handset. Tap in the Video PtistCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoptist+ (**), Ptiscode (**) and Video Programmer are tradements of Gernster Development Ltd.

BBC2

7.10am THE PHIL SILVERS SHOW (b/w) (r) 7.35 GOING HOLLYWOOD Hollywood's

8.50 FILM: Command Decision (1948, b/w) Clark Gable stars as an Allied officer

(40537769) EISENHOWER, SOLDIER First of two-part profile of Dwight D. Elsenhower, Concludes

tomorrow (8559769) 11.45 THE ROYAL INSTITUTION
CHRISTMAS LECTURES Professor

Simon Conway presents his theory of why dinosaure became extinct (778030) 12.45pm CLASH OF THE TITANS The 1981 Ashes series (r) (T) (3854547) 1.25 THE ESSENTIAL GYMNASTICS (r) (T)

2.45 THE CAR'S THE STAR The Triumph Herald (r) (T) (3878653)

3.05 GREAT RAILWAY JOURNEYS Detry to Kerry with Michael Palin (r) (2872924) 4.00 LOVE ON A BRANCH LINE First of a tour-pert comedy drama (r) (5813455) 4.50 FILM: Brief Encounter (1945, b/w) with

Lean's classic romance (T) (2816637) 6.15 FiLM: The Witches (1990) with Angelia Huston, Rowen Atkinson and Mai Zetterling, Horror tantasy based on the novel by Roald Dehl. Directed by Nicolas Roag (1) (975301)

AN AUDIENCE WITH CHARLES DICKENS Simon Callow reads the story of Doctor Marigold, Last in series (T) (345160) 8.20 CHANGING ROOMS Carol Smille presents highlights from the series in



Keeley Hawes and Greg Wise (9pm)

9.00 THE MOONSTONE Conclusion of the Moonstone continues to haunt everyone who comes into contact with it, Franklin Blake grows ever more determined to get to the bottom of the mystery (1)

Highlights (r) (1) (205653) 10,35 FILM: El Mariachi (1992). An action adventure starring Carlos Gallardo. In Spanish with English subtitles. Directed

11.55 ALANIS MORISSETTE IN CONCERT /2895963

ather's first wife. Directed by Gunter von 2.05 WEATHER (9741752)

CHOICE

Eisenhower: Soldier

Tucked away in the morning schedules as if it were no more than a space-filler, this is a fine biography from the United States of the fine biography from the United States of the Second World War general who went on to become a postwar President. The authority of the project is apparent from the use of historians of the calibre of Stephen Ambrose, Arthur Schlesinger and Sir Michael Howard and, incidentally, giving them enough space to say something useful, a practice not always followed during the BBC's recent 1914-18. This expert analysis, together with reminiscences from the Eisenhower family, is grafted on to a clear and well-organised is grafted on to a clear and well-organise narrative. Part one covers like's surprising emergence as Allied Supreme Commander in Europe after a military career that seemed

An Audience With Charles Dickens

Simon Callow rounds off an enjoyable series with one of the lesser-known works in the Dickens canon. Lesser-known to us, that is. In its time Doctor Marigold was one of the most popular of Dickens's readings and a bestseller. Callow has pronounced it a masterpiece which may be taking praise too far, though it is a beautifully constructed story which demonstrates the author's characteristic ability to soften the bleakest themes with warmth and sentimentality. The eponymous Marigold (the doctor is an honorary title) is a cheapjack, or travelling salesman, who makes an unhappy marriage and suffers the tragic death of his small daughter. But Dickens refuses to kick the man when he is down and at Marigold's

A Woman of Independent Means

Sally Field has made a speciality of playing doughty women and has two Oscars to prove it. As she is both executive producer and star this three-part mini-series, the project arly appealed to her. For one thing it affords her the challenge of playing a character who ages some 50 years. But above all Bess Alcott, a Southern belle first encountered as a 20-year-old before the First World War, is another of Field's strong world war, is another of relats strong ladies. She has to be because although the family has plenty of money, it is extraordinarily tragedy-prone. Bess's young daughter nearly dies in a car accident, the family home goes up in flames, hubby succumbs to pneumonia and we are not even though the first enjecte. Brends Frieker through the first episode. Brenda Fricker swaps her Irish accent for American to play

Element of Doubt

ITV. 9.00pm 10.05 HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU

by Robert Rodriguez (7115721) 11.50 AFFARS TO REMEMBER (587301)

12.50am FILM: The Curse of the Cat Pr (1944, b/w) with Sknone Simon. A lonely youngster is haunted by a vision of her

BBC2, 10.40am

to be going nowhere. Part two (tomorrow deals with Eisenhower the statesman.

BBC2, 7.45pm

lowest point comes the chance meeting that will change his life for the better.

Channel 4, 8.30pm

Bess's kindly mother-in-law.

David Pirie is a cinema buff which may explain why his thriller has uncanny echoes of Himboock's Suspicion. That 1942 film was about an English rose (Joan Fontaine) who anout an Engish rose (Joan Fontaine) who marries a charming bounder (Cary Grant) and suspects that he is trying to kill her. In Element of Doubt Gina McKee plays a schoolteacher married to a charming bounder (Nigel Havers) whom she suspects of trying to kill her. Not only the broad plot, but little details such as the herome's nickname, recall the Hitchcock movie. But this is a homage, not a remake. Pirie works the material in his own way, cleverly building the suspense and staging a surprise denouement that has no counterpart in Hitchcock. The performances of Gina McKee, edgy and vulnerable, and Nigel

Havers, urbane and treacherous, are perfectly complemented. Peter Waymark

6.00em GMTV (7330769) 9.25 SANTO BUGITO (4268740) 9.50 STEP BY STEP (f) (2226837)

10.20 NEWS (f) (3114450) 10.25 REGIONAL NEWS (3113721) 10.30 FILM: Black Beauty (1971) Children's classic tale starting Mark Lester. Directed by James Hill (1) (60177189)

12,20pm REGIONAL NEWS (2276063) 12.30 NEWS (T) and weather (9156214) 12.55 DINOSAURS (f) (9131905) 1.25 FILM: The First Great Train Robbery (1978) With Sean Connery, Donald Sutherland, Lesley-Anne Down and

Michael Elphick. A respected gentlemen-cum-crook hatches a plan to rob a British Army payroli train. Directed by Michael Crichton (T) (58191672) 3.20 NEWS (7554924)

3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (7553295)

3.30 FILM: Big Foot (1987) Disney adventure about two children on a camping trip aptured by a group of ape-like cre being pursued by hunters. Directed by Danny Huston (273585) 5.10 GO WILD IN THE COUNTRY: The

ing of the Wind in the Willows (7710837)(7710837) 5.40 NEWS (T) and weather (158363)

6.00 HOME AND AWAY SPECIAL (638585) 6.25 HTV NEWS (T) (896498) 7.00 WISH YOU WERE HERE? New series of the travel magazine (T) (1059)

7.30 CORONATION STREET The new year looks grim for Liz (1) (585) 8.00 NOW WE'RE TALKING Phillip Schofield takes a humorous look at the way people communicate at home, at work and between the sheets (T) (5721)



Ginz McKee and Nigel Havers (9pm)

ELEMENT OF DOUBT Thriffer about a woman suspecting her husband is trying to kill her. With Nigel Havers and Gina McKee (T) (5108)

11.00 NEWS (I) and weather (175295) 11,15 REGIONAL NEWS (447924) 11.25 JEFF GREEN: LIVE! The comedian recorded live at London's Her Majesty's Theatre (314672)

12.10am THE BEATLES ANTHOLOGY (r) (T) (4121948)1.10 FOOTBALL EXTRA Highlights from the Football League, plus news, features and competitions (7155412)

1.55 WAR OF THE WORLDS (r) (6410412) 2.50 GOD'S GIFT (f) (6157561) 3.50 ENTERTAINMENT '96 (8041325)

4.45 FILM: Nichotas Nickeby (1985) Animated version of Charles Dickens's classic tale (1715967) 5.40 SOUND BITES (3037948)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: 12.55pm-1.25 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (9131905)

5.10-5.40 THE MAKING OF STAR TREK BEYOND FIRST CONTACT (7710837) 6,25-7.00 CENTRAL NEWS (896498) 1,55am NOT FADE AWAY (6401764) 2.55 Film: LICENCE TO DRIVE (911306) 4.30 RECOLLECTIONS (79349677) 4.55 SOUND BITES (56787783)

5.30 JAMES BOND JNR (1116238) WESTGOUNTRY

As HTV West except: 12,55pm-1.25 AND FINALLY (9131905)

5.05 FUNNY BUSINESS (1135615)

5,10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY SPECIAL (7710837) 6,00-7,00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (90740)

MERIDIAN As HTV West except: 12.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (9131905)

1.25-3.20 Film: THE CHRISTMAS STAR 5,10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY SPECIAL (7710837)

6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (721) 6.30-7.00 CELEBRITY SQUARES (301) 3,45em ENTERTAINMENT (8044412) 4.40 Film: NICHOLAS NICKLEBY (1985). Animated version (9296412)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: 12.19pm ANGLIA AIR WATCH (9026540) 12.55-1.25 CROSSWITS (9131905) 5,10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7710837) 6.25-7.00 ANGLIA NEWS (896498)

SC Starts: 6.20em SESAME STREET (3580092) 7.15 THE BABYSITTERS CLUB (5583112) 7.50 STUNT DAWGS (5342818) 8.15 LTTTLE SHOP (7455011) 8.35 WHERE ON EARTH IS CARMEN SAN

DIEGO? (6478924) 9.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (94740) 10.00 Film: JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF

THE EARTH (88193769) 12.25cm ABEL'S ISLAND (3867721) 1.00 SLOT METHRIN (95382) 1.30 SNOW BUSINESS (89837) 2.30 Film: THE ROBE (444189) 5.00 5 PUMP (9837)

6.00 NEWYDDION (504189) 6.05 HENO (616363) 8.35 SION A SIAN (898030) 7.00 POBOL Y.CWM (916295)

7.25 Y BYD AR SEDWAR (174108) R 00 BACHA HI O'MA (8721) 8.30 NEWYDDION (735837) 8.45 S4C YN CYFLWYNO (853160) 9.15 JO BRAND: ALL THE WAY TO WORCESTER (827905)

10.45 Plint: THE MAN WITH TWO BRAINS (74033363)

12.25am THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL BIG **MATCH (5491677)** 1,50 WOMEN AT PLAY (2125509) 2.15 LUMBERJACKS OKI (72509)

CHANNEL 4

6.20am SESAME STREET (3580092) 7.15 The Babysitters Club (r) (5583112) 7.50 Sturit Dawgs (5342818) 8.15 Little Shop Sturt Dawgs (5342518) 8.15 Little Shop (7455011) 8.35 Where on Earth is Carmen San Diego? (6478924) 9.00 The Big Breakfast (94740) 10.00 Hangiri With Mr Cooper (r) (T) (55276) 10.30 The Crystal Maze (r) (T) (77092) 11.30 Back To the Future (r) (T) (5753045) 11.55 The Pink Parither (r) (T) (6208130)

12.20pm GOD IN THE HOUSE The last in the series of looking at the Christian rave scene in modern worship (T) (5647419)

12.50 FiLM: Twist (1992) A Canadian documentary drama tracing the evolution of the dance craze that took 1960s
America by storm. With contributions
from Chubby Checker, Gladys Horton,
Gary "US" Bonds, Dee Dee Sharp, Hank ard and Joe Dee (4351905)

2.20 FILM: Silk Stockings (1957) A musical comedy starring Fred Astairs and Cyd Charisse A Moscow delegation is sent to Paris to ensure a Russian composer isn't tempted to defect after he accepts an invitation of write the score for a Hollywood film. Directed by Rouben Mamoulien (T) (88155585)

4.30 COUNTDOWN (T) (498) 5.00 AMERICAN FOOTBALL: THE PLAYOFFS Gridiron action (85189) 6,30 HOLLYOAKS Teen soap (T) (943)

7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (T) (2301) 7,30 JUST DANCING AROUND? The last of the senes on the current creators of modern dance profiles Richard Alston whose creative influences range from t'al chi to Merce Cunningham (T) (38127)



A WOMAN OF INDEPEN-DENT MEANS The first of a three-part story about a Southern society belle, starring Sally Field (T) (64042924) 10.10 HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREET: The Wedding The precinct is shocked when Lewis announces he is getting

married (T) (226498) 11.10 THE DEALERS A comical documentary by Jeen-Luc Leon examining the relationship between three artists and their dealers while organising shows in New York, Paris and Venice (T) (549301)

12.30mm LE CRIMINEL (7740832) 12.35 FILM: The G Men (1935, b/w) with James Cagney, a gangster backs James "Brick" Davis through law achool, but when a friend joins the FBI and is

federal agent in order to seek revenge. Directed by William Keighley (471696) 2.10-3.35 FILM: Invisible Stripes (1940, b/w) with George Raft and Humphrey Bogart. When two men are released from jail, one man decides it is time to tread the straight and narrow while his fellow convict soon returns to his old ways. A thriller directed by Lloyd Bacon (5629696)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

Table 1

- State of the sta

• For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory. published on Saturday

7.00mm Love Connection (4815479) 7.20
7.00mm Love Connection (4815479) 7.20
Press Your Luck (4829943) 7.40 Jeopardyl
(3046363) 8.10 Hotel (5491160) 9.00
Amother World (1608473) 9.45 Oprah
Windrey (7741595) 10.40 Real 79 Je371498)
11.10 Salv Jessy Rephael (8308498) 12.00
Genaldo (23278) 1.00 Jenny Jones (35363)
4.00 Oprah Windrey (54498) 8.00 Star Traic
The Need Generation (1450) 8.00 The
Simpsons (9729) 8.30 The Simpsons (972) 7.30
MASH (5005) 8.00 Year in Reviews Festion
(8127) 8.30 Year in Penident Diane, Princess
of Webs (7834) 9.00 The Bibler Moses
(78668) 11.00 Star Traic The Near Generapon (32837) 12.00 LAPD (93412) 12.30ess
Real TV (63308) 1.00 His Mix (59764)
SSCV 2

7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Mine (1899496) 8.00 Water Rata (1875818) 9.00 (1859445) 8.00 Water Faze (1073516) 8.00 The Correible (1888582) 10.00 Under Suspicion (1896789) 11.00 Late Show, with David Leterman (1206052) 12.00 FLUM: Rational Lampoon's Movie Backness (2515238) 2.00 Ha Mar Long Play (5954122)

SKY MOVIES

6.00mm Heart Line a Wheal (1983) (24112) 8.00 Monadear Verdour (1947) (81673721) 10.05 Kithy Foyle U (1946) (49434759) 12.06 Cops and Robbersons (1994) (12214) 2.00pm Cold Turkey (1971) (7232) 4.00 Wagons East. (1994) (1984) 6382) 8.00 Police Academy Vit-Masion to Mospow (1994) (24905) 7.30 Mission in Mossow (1994) (2895) 7.30 El Pestase (301) 8.00 Hercules and the Circle of Fernanda (1994) El Festiane (3301) 8.00 Hercaties and the Circle of Fire (1994) (52818) 9.30 The Sheestank Rademption (1994) (415383) 11.58 Body Begs (1993) (66483) 1.35am Once Werk Wartfors (1994) (73702) 3.15 Wilder Napelm (1993) (19967)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

A Journey to the Centre of the Earth (20092) 8.30 The Megic Adventure (1973) (23834) 10.00 Runeway Express (1982) (42)27) 12.00 My Brother's Keep-(1994) (11856) 2.00pm The Battle of 1 VBin Florita (1985) (70924) 4.00 ung ladiana Jones and the Attack of Young Inclient Jones and the Attack of the Hartzmin (1985) (4924) 6.00 Behind the Weisefall (1985) (50163) 8.00 Den June De Merco (1985) (83163) 8.30 Outhreak (1986) (41890127 11.50 A Good Mart in Africa (1994) (379905) 1.25am/ Second Best (1994) (575905) 3.10 The Doormeday Gon (1994) (575015) 8.00 A Journey to the Centre of the Earth

> SKY MOVIES GOLD 4.00pm The Helman (1949) (8131856) 6.00 Snow White and the Three Storges (1961) (3528295) 8.00 The Jark (1979) 3529740) 10.00 Hearthmak Ridge (1986) (41449905) 12.15em The Pick-Up Artist (1967) (23361966) 1.40 Cator (1976) (2294628) 3.40 The Great Dictator (1940) (7252050)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL Sty Movies Gold fators over at 10pm.
6.00am Mupper Bathes (4562769) 6.25
Sing Me a Story, with Betle (4541278) 6.50
Big Garage (1830818) 7.00 Enchanted
Tales: Prince and the Pauper (6846478)
7.45 FLIME Storkers, the Christmas Eti
(5841127) 6.10-Bonters (9290276) 8.35
Erond Spartners New Deut (695078) 8.00 Table: Prince into the Proper (celes/19) 7.46 Fill-M: Bluetinee, the Christmee Ett (3841127) & 10-Bonkers (9290276) & 35 Brand Sperting New Doug (8508276) 9.00 Aladdin (5141818) 9.26 Timon and Pumbea (398228) 10.10 Deriwang Duck (7796951) 10.36 Bonkers (7154785) 11.00 Cuseck Attack (8513943) 11.25 July Old St Nicholes (9813547) 11.26 July Old St Nicholes (9813547) 11.56 Good Troop (9977872) 12.15pes Aladdin (3994943) 12.40 Timon and Pumbea (1981924) 1.05 The Eye of the Storm (82838943) 1.30 The Eye of the Storm (82838943) 1.30 The Eye of the Storm (82838943) 1.50 The Eye of the Storm (9881160) 1.55 Fill-M: Fland-A-103 (723857) 3.25 Derk the Halfs (8503030) 3.45 Bonkers (1792943) 3.50 Mouse Tractic (9421488) 4.15 Derkwing Ouck (9097295) 4.40 Good Thoop 2881363) 5.05 Aladdin (7095721) 5.30 Timon and Pumbea (2856) 6.00 Beand Speniding New Doug (9760) 8.30 Bossom (3721) 7.00 Brotherly Love (3479) 7.30 Fill-M: A Mother's Citt (55700363) 9.05 Home Improvement (446082) 9.30 Golden Grie

7,00mm Racing News (89905) 7,30 Live International Cricket (1121634) 3,30pm

Football Special (659059) 6.00 Sports Centre (1565) 6.30 Football Tentan Extra (38922) 7.30 Hatemational Circles (379301) 10.00 Sports Centre (81653) 10.30 Foot-ball: Tentan Extra (43837) 11.30 Spanish Football (62189) 1.30ess Football: Tentan Stata (46561) 2.30-3.00 Sports Centre (25308) 3.00 Close (15344)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Mex: Out (24709950) 12.30pen Rebel Sports: (43159469) 1.00 Live Derns: WDC World Championehrp (42944856) 5.00 World of Speed and Beauty (41698740) 5.30 Oraș Rachy (63388276) 6.00 Max Out (83396189) 6.30 Rebel Sports (83398769) 7.00 Sports Centre (41685276) 7.30-11.30 Live Derns: WDC World Championship (65757491) EUROSPORT 7.30am Clympic Games (73108) 8.00 Football (83769) 9.00 Cycling (56943) 11.00 Al Sports (94030) 11.30 Sid-Lumping (15030) 1.00pm Alpine Siding (99978) 2.00 Tricishot (62363) 3.30 Strongman (48127) 4.30 Live Bastetball (848943) 7.00 Al Sports (74837) 9.00 Al Sports (1937) 10.00 Football (12324) 11.00-12.30em Bastetball (51856)

GRANADA PLUS

GRANADA PLUS

8.00am The Krypton Fector (S359479) 6.30
Once Upon a Thre (29825108) 8.45 Our Backyard (82428301) 7.00 Allsonts (782/276) 7.15 Once Upon a Time (822856) 7.30 Choravard (1800553) 8.00 Clessec Coronation Street (1121924] 8.30 The Krypton Factor (1120255) 8.00 Families (1111947) 9.30 Coven Court (5531450) 10.00 Gardener's Calendar (5624565) 10.30 Rises Me Father (1140059) 11.00 Litle (1818301) 12.00 Clessec Coronation Street (1124011) 12.30pm The Doctor Sanes: in Charge 2 (582556) 1.00 Crown Court (1897189) 1.30 Fernilies (561837) 2.00 Coro Special: The Life and Loves of Kan Bertow (1225740) 2.30 Coro Special: The Life and Loves of Kan Bertow (1225740) Kan Bertow (102050) 3.00 Coro Special: The Life and Loves of Kan Bertow (1221547) Ken Barlow (1003905) 3.00° Coro Speciac The Life and Lowes of Ken Barlow (1211547) 3.30° Coro Special: The Life and Lowes of Ken Barlow (1004450) 4.00° Coro Special: The Life and Lowes of Ken Barlow (1023955) 4.30° Coro Special: The Life and Lowes of Ken Barlow (1023799) 5.00° Life (12035127) 8.00° Classic Coronadon Street (1000834) 6.30° Families (1024214) 7.00° Planse Siri (1236856) 7.30° The Dector Series: In



GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 5.00mp-9.00 TV High Street

From 5.00est-9.00 TV High Street.
Includes Construer news and features and
Your Stars presented by Russell Grant
From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine. InFrom 12.00-3.00pm Heelth and BeautyIncludes Diet and Fitness with Rosemary Confey From 3.00-8.00 Home and Gerden. Includes The Good Life Style Guide THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pas Biography: Mosas and the Ten Commendmente (2095295) 5.00 Kings and Queens of England (1162108) 8.00 Short Troops (3005672) 7.00-8.00 Biography: The Ententainers — Richard Pryor (1175672) THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Tem-4am Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from 8am-4am every day on cable 8.00pm Staven Spalberg's Amezing Stones (1151092) 8.30 The Twight Zone (1170127) 9.00 Sightings (6103585) 10.00 Starman (6108672) 11.00 Friday the 13th The Series (2400389) 12.00 The Incredible Hull. (6898412) 1.00mm The Twilight Zone (6121529) 3.30 Tales of the Unexpected (6795590 2.00 New Altrad Hitchcook (2633309) 2.30 Rod Serting's Night Gellery (3545141) 3.00-4.00 Friday the 13th (2634290)

2,00sm Furniture to Go (4202030) 6.30 Furniture to Go (2580760) 10.00 Furniture to Go (2580760) 10.00 Furniture to Go (4202214) 11.00 Furniture to Go (1984805) 11.30 Furniture to Go (1985840) 12.00 Furniture to Go (4202560) 12.30pm New Yerikee Workshop (2584855) 1.00 New Yerikee Workshop (2584856) 1.00 New Yerikee Workshop (2584856) 2.00 New Yerikee Workshop (7444108) 2.30 New Yerikee Workshop (7458943) 3.30 New Yerikee Workshop (7458943) 3.30 New Yerikee Workshop (8787740) 3.00 New Yerikee Workshop (8787740) 3.00 New Yerikee Workshop (8785765)

(8778092) 4.30 Roadshow (8774276) 5.00 Time Travellers (7426160) 5.30 Term X: Theldand — Land of the Jacke Buddhas (8798956) 6.00 Wild Things: Unfamed Africa (2599276) 7.00 Next Step (7449924) 7.30 Arthur C Clerk's World of Straige Powers (8779905) 6.00 The Batile of Actum: History's Turning Points (7457672) 8.30 Wonders of Weather (7443479) 9.00 Traibleases (4499566) 12.00 The Diversity (87909) 1.30-2.00 Special Forces: Royal Canadian Mounted Police (7539967)

7.00asts Gorrg for Gold (2295295) 7.25
Crossroeds (299824) 8.00 Nergibours (8543214) 8.25 EastEnders (299108) 9.00
The Bill (4275160) 9.30 Growing Pairs (8469295) 10.30 The Sullvans (4204672) 11.00 Tha Onedin Line (1522905) 12.00
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The Bill (8791943) 4.00 All Creatures Great (6508565) 5.35 Crossroads (6539634) 6.00
Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em (67656108) 7.05 Bob's Full House (648924) 7.45 Odd Cne Out (1830189) 8.25 FILM: Perry Maseon: The Cessa of the Massical Mandar (83158540) 10.15 The Bill (4659534) 10.50
Spiting Image (2472127) 11.25 The Best of Top of the Pops (5877363) 12.00 FILM: She'll Follow You Anywhere (8309832) 1.45cm Shopping at Night (2654238)

8.00 A1 Altack (37850) 9.30 Metitown: Take Onel (41547) 10:00 Saved by the Bell (43082) 11:00 Saved Valley High (10082) 11:30 Hsng Tinhe (11721) 12:00 Hearthreek High (54488) 1:00 Mexison (57672) 1:30 Metitown: No Nated Farnes (44634) 2:00 Sweet Valley High (28295) 3.00 California Dreams (22837) 4.00-5.00 Saved by the Boll (34672)

NICKELODEON

7.00 Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys (67547) 7.30 Tales from the Cryptiseeper (79382) 8.00 Mighty Max (85479) 8.30 Hey Arnold (77450) 9.00 Rugrats (81214) 10.00 Red Monstert (42740) 10.30 Doug (97214) 11.00 Rocko's Modern Lite (74278) 11.30 Peter and Peter (75905) 12.00 The Secret World of Aler Medic (88568) 12.30pm Ren and Sumpy (16837) 1.00 The Ferrals (66818) 1.30 Space Cases (15108) 2.00 Clariesa Explaints in All (2721) 2.30 Doug (8489) 3.00 Real Monsters (1856) 3.30 Silckin' Around (3943) 4.00 Buno the Kid (2450) 4.30 Rugrats (8534) 5.00 Moesha (9127) 6.30-7.00 Are You Atrad of the Dark? (1739) 7.00am Gong for Gold (2295295) 7.35 PARAMOUNT 7.00pm Driffrent Strokes (3837) 7.30 Berson (9363) 8.00 Due South (52437) 9.00 Almost Periect (37740) 9.30 Tax (2930); 10.00 Entershirment UK (89295) 10.30 Garls on Top (99943) 11.00 in Bed, with Mic Diminor (99385) 11.30 highestant (79633) 12.30bm Siedge Hammer (97754) 1,00 Due South (66670) 2.00 Entertainment (97754) 1.230 in Bert, with Mic Disper-

12.00 Fentasy Island (2567818) 1.00pm Remington Steele (2575565) 2.00 Sapphre and Steel (2565032) 3.00 Fantasy Island (1983276) 4.00 FB Mr. More Dead than Africe (7454585) 6.00 Thunderbuds (2599000) 7.00 The Champons (1280160) 6.00 Sassiy and Hutch (1205108) 9.00 Biltonaire Boys Cuto (1219572) 10.00-12.00 FILM: The House by the Cermetery (1982547)

Like Libe South (66670) 2.00 Entertainment Like (37141) 2.30 in Bed, with Me Dinner (23948) 3.00 Gets on Top (13966) 3.30 Atmost Performance

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(322/9618) 7.10 Turna: out (2089/82) 7.40
The Young and the Res tes (3801834) 8.30
Michael Barry's Choir Cuts (1808/96)
9.00 Charle's Angels (86172/479) 10.05
The Jerry Springer Shory (1569/59) 11.00
The Young and the Festiess (1164/85)
11.55 Brookside (22696585) 12.23pm Call
the Doctor (4082/859) 12.50 Gabrielle
(2269959) 1.40 The Gordon Eliott Show
(9833819) 2.30 The Agony Experience
(2707214) 3.00 Like at Three (57186347)
4,10 The Jerry Springer Show (1288544)
5.06 Lingo (45134082) 5.30 Lucity Lodders
(2701030) 8.00 | Dream of Jeannile

(\$682450) 8.35 Ready Steedy, Cook (\$644479) 7.05 Brooksde (4624363) 7.35 Sony Now" (2430585) 8.05 Rd (56) 9.00 FiLM: When No **FAMILY CHANNEL**

5.00pm Blockbusters (6189) 5.30 Tressure Hurt (83566) 7.30 Hear to Hart (45479) 8.30 Cnty When I Laugh (4108) 9.00 Bergerac (88127) 10.00 Stay Lucky (51214) 11.00 Begdad Cale (55301) 11.30 FM (16450) 12.00 Lou Grant (8986) 1.00mm Bergerac (52966) 2.00 Hert to Hert (99580) 3.00 Lou Grant (80770) 4.00 All Together Now (71509) 4.30-5.00 The Black Station (43141) MIV

The 24 hour music channel includes news, reviews, five concert footage, inforviews and the latest music video charts

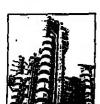
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Continuous cartoons from 58m to 9pm, then TNT films as below. 9.00 Clesh of the Tilans, (1981) (41536769) 11.00 MGM: When the Lions Ross

PERFORMANCE 7.00 Lee Riteriour and Dave Grusin (3516450) 8.00 Ans (8134943) 8.30 The Golden Age (5509299) 10:30 On the Town (1001030) 12:00 Herbie Mann's Jack Brass

No Wire 1:50



LIMITING 33

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MONDAY DECEMBER 30 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY CO

TUC fears working time opt-out will hit holidays

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE TUC will give warning today that about six million workers in Britain will lose holidays if the Government succeeds in oping out from Europe's 48-hour week working time directive.

In advance of the coming general election, the unions will also say that the Government's move is "bad politics", and would affect about 9,000 people in every constituency. The Government wants Britain's

opt-out from the European Union Maastricht treaty social chapter to be extended to exclude the United Kingdom from Europe's working time directive.

John Major is insisting that Britain will not agree to any deal at the European Union's intergovernmental conference unless the United

Kingdom's opt-out is extended.

This follows the rejection, by the European Court, of Britain's legal appeal against the directive, and the

court's ruling that its measures

As well as a limit on working hours, the directive, for the first time, sets minimum holiday standards for all employees, bringing Britain into line with every other European Union country by granting a legal minimum of three weeks'

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, says he suspects most people "are left pretty cold" by many of the abstract arguments politicians have

concrete benefits to people in work. He says of the Government's "Going into an election promising to stop five million

people getting some extra annual holiday seems pretty bad politics to me. That's about 9,000 people in every constituency in Britain asked to put a cross against a box marked

In an analysis of the impact of the Government's planned move, the

must now be applied in the United about Europe — but that the TUC says that almost six million working time directive offers real. people would lose their holidays if the Prime Minister succeeds in extending the opt-out.

The court's decision will offer 5,868,000 employees in Britain improved holiday rights for the first time, the unions say, which would be lost if the Government succeeds in its move against the working time

About 25 million employees. representing 12.5 per cent of the workforce, who currently have no

paid annual leave, will gain holiday rights for the first time. Of these, 1.6 million are women, with most working part time.

When the workers who currently have fewer than the three weeks' leave specified by the directive are also taken into account, the total standing to lose the rights offered by the directive rises to almost six million. Temporary workers in par-ticular are likely to have no holiday entitlement, the TUC says in its report published today.

Buyouts

rise to

record

£6.77bn

By Frank LE DUC

MORE bosses took the first

steps to becoming million-aires this year than ever before as the number of

management buyouts and

buy-ins rose to record levels.

high, and a report due to be

published today predicts the trend will continue in 1997.

estimates that about 600 buy-ins and buyouts were com-pleted during the year with a total value of £6.77 billion.

ahead of the record figure of

Among the deals with the highest profile in 1996 was the controversial MBO of one of

three privatised BR rolling

stock companies by Porter-

brook Leasing for £527 mil-

lion. Porterbrook was sold to

Stageroach for £825 million six months later. Sandy An-derson, who led the buyout,

took more than £30 million of

the staff's £80, million profit.

Others include Testing Ser-

vices, which was bought out

from Inchcape, Dunion Sla-

zenger which was sold to its

managers by BTR; and Power-

house, the electrical retailer

Another report due out to-

arch at the University of

Mike Stevens, head of MBO

services at KPMG, said: "Underlying economic conditions

and the weight of institutional

liquidity point to another good

year for MBOs in 1997. There

may be a pause in sales of smaller private firms, but pres-sure on public companies to

morrow, from the Centre for

confirm the KPMG estimat

£6.70 billion set last year.

KPMG Corporate Finance

The value of MBO and MBI deals also reached a new

currency threatens Britain

IoD says

single

By OLIVER AUGUST

THE Institute of Directors has cautioned that joining the European single currency in 1997 would result in a threat to Britain's competitiveness.

In his new year rallying call to IoD members. Tim Melville Ross, the director-general, said that "vitally important decisions concerning our future in Europe" would be taken in the coming year.

He said: "A decision to join the single currency in 1997 or at any other time in the foresceable future would so constrain our economic freedom as to make it virtually impossible for us to compete successfully. We must continue to pursue our own indepen-

dent economic policy within the single market." Mr Melville-Ross also said that UK employment could be endangered by labour regulations set out in the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty. We must stay out of the social chapter and the single currency," he said. "Ending our opt-out from the social chapter would give our partners the opportunity to impose additional labour costs on us, so that it will be harder for us to compete, both in Europe and the rest of the world. This must mean higher unemploy-

ment, the last thing we need." Looking ahead to the general election, Mr Meville-Ross emphasised the importance of education. He said: "If there is one priority for 1997, it is that the conspiracy of silence in education must be ended. All politicians, educationists and business leaders must turn their minds and their efforts to educating young people to play their full part in the

society we are creating. Expounding the benefits of free markets. he said: "We have growth with low inflation, no ignificant trade problems and falling unemployment - we are very proud of Europe. We

must keep it that way."

Mr Melville-Ross concluded: "If the economy continues to be managed in a disciplined and prudent way, if we recognise that international competitiveness is the key to a prosperous society and if we have confidence in ourselves, there is no reason why we shouldn't be world beaters."

Job hopes at their best for seven years

BRITAIN'S job prospects now stand at a seven-year high, employment forecasts say today, suggesting a "prosperous" start to the new

The forecasts come in the wake of overall claimant unemployment falling just before the Christmas and new year holiday to below two million for the first time for six years, after a huge 95,800 monthly drop in seasonally adjusted unemployment — the biggest fall since current government records began a quarter of a

century ago.

Manpower, the job agency. in its latest employment forecasts, which it claims prefigure the Government's later official c'ata closely, says today that job prospects for the first quarter of 1997 are at the most favourable point since 1990.

Looking at a sample of almost 2,200 employers across the country, the Manpower survey — which is one of the longest-standing in Britain, having been running for more than 27 years — says that 21 per cent of employers are forecasting an increase in job

TIMES

No 977

DOWN

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4 Within hearing (7)

5 Pained expression (7)

(Good) books (10)

13 Largest living bird (7)

14 Look carefully over (7)

20 County: favourite of E

16 Socially inept (6)

19 Bread fragment (5)

6 Obscernely abusive (10)

2 Vertical type: old Latin-speaker (5)

3 Projecting weight-support;

ACROSS

thor (7)

I in order to be different

8 Seed-planter; military

10 Train of followers (7)

movements (5)

(1 Wild animal (5)

15 Shooting star (6)

pine) quill (5)

23 One never silent (10)

SOLUTION TO NO 976

18 Very old (?)

7 Thomas -, Prayer Book au-

12 With humorous, non-literal

17 Capt. -. died to save Scott (5)

21 Part of book cover; (porcu-

22 Medium-size warship (7)

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SOLUTION TO THE TIMES TWO NEW YEAR JUMBO

a manner of speaking 44 Lieutenant Commander 46 Unguent 48 Index 49 Minus 51 Snippet 53 Skinny 54 Tournedos

land 76 End user 77 Lantern 78 Overdid

DOWN: 1 Carry through 2 Stew 3 Spatter 4 Black tie 6 Role 7 Good riddance 11 Antinomy 13 Weather 16 Scam 19 Most

ACROSS: I Deflier 5 Scalpel 9 Relapse 15 A silver nutmeg and a golden pear 16 Law centre 17 Pelican 18 Emanating 19 Stand-in 21 Atmospheric 23 Diesel 24 Think again 26 Looks 28 Old Master 31 Troika 33 Chassis 36 Oasis 37 Crawl 40 Striker 41 In

57 Recto 59 Opposition 62 Depths 64 Periphrasis 68 Abridge 70 Amplifier 71 Skirred 73 Fruit tree 75 A travelle from an antique

DOWN: 1 Dead loss 2 Fair-weather friend 3 Levile 4 Ruritania 5 Sum up 6 Angelus 7 Pinocchio 8 Learner 9 Re3-handed 10 Lineage 11 President 12 Enrage 13 Eureka 14 Come across

20 Dunkirk ZZ Mania 25 Auction 26 Las Palmas 27 Scoured

45 Texan 47 Glitter 50 Nosy Parker 52 Pious 53 Unexpired

29 Accra 30 Relegate 32 Acronym 34 San Marino 36 St Paul's 38 Alice-in-Wonderland 39 Psalmist 42 Accuser 43 Foretop

56 Distiller 58 Capricorn 60 Status quo 61 Defetided 63 Thieves

65 Restful 66 Rat race 67 Safety 69 Palace 72 Drain 74 Theme

levels, with 15 per cent foreseeing a fall. This net balance of 6 per cent is a three-point increase on the same period last year, and is the most optimistic first-quarter figure since

1990, Manpower says. Manufacturing is the most optimistic sector, with a balance set at 15 per cent, with automotive manufacturing and general engineering even higher at balances of 28 and 21 per cent respectively. Telecommistic sector, with a balance of a third of companies surveyed lorecasting an increase in jobs.

The public and private building sectors both show increased job confidence, with a net 3 per cent of public employers in construction predicting increased employment, and a net 12 per cent in private building, in line with what is seen as a general upturn in the building indus-

Public sector job prospects overall are worse than the national average, with a balance of 7 per cent of employers saying jobs will decline. Regionally, the Manpower

survey shows employers in the South to be the most optimistic, with a net 15 per cent foreseeing job growth. While prospects in Lorkan. .-below the national average,
-writing to

Job prospects in Scotland are below the national average in the Manpower survey for the first time in 12 months, while the North East is the only region with a negative employment forecast, with a balance of 15 per cent of employers suggesting jobs will decrease over the next three months. The North West

shows the greatest upturn. Lilian Bennett, chairman of Manpower, said: "It is heartening to see the new year off to good start. Apart from increased optimism over job prospects, there are also signs of a recovery in overall confidence and investment, partic-

She hoped that the uncertainty surrounding the general election would do nothing to inhibit the recovery and that the momentum could be maintained to avoid skill shortage B&Q, the chain of DIY stores, yesterday confirmed that it is to create 1.800 jobs this year at five new outlets in Coventry, Greater Manchester, Stockton-on-Tees, Merseyside and north London. The recruitment drive will increase the chain's workforce by 10 per cent, with the new jobs shared equally between full and part-



Porterbrook's sale to Stagecoach put Sandy Anderson on a fast track to £30 million

Update may cost Mercury £80m

MERCURY Communications could face a bill of up to £80 million to update its computers to process dates in the new millennium, as a legacy from its rush to enter the newly privatised telecommunications

market in the Eighties. Uwe Natho, Mercury's IT director, said the company has budgeted for £35 million to £40 million to be spent on the update, but said the bill could run to twice that amount.

At present much of Mercury's software reads dates in two-digit format only. When

By Fraser Nelson told that an account starts in 97 and ends in 01, uncorrected programmes will throw up an error message, deducing 01 is

an earlier date then 97. While older companies face larger bills, the sum came as a surprise to many in the industry who supposed that Mercury, which is only 12 years old, would run on more modern data storage software with a shelf life longer than 20 years.

Mr Natho said that in its haste to become established to compete against BT, Mercury bought software wherever it could. "You name it, we've got it," he told Computer Weekly. In 12 years, we've accumulated 422 applications. Our mobile business has its own customer, ordering, network man-agement and billing systems. Mercury had to grow fast, so it bought everything quickly. Whenever there was an IT problem, we bought whatever was the best price."

Other companies are expected to follow suit in 1997. One report put the worldwide at £600 billion.

It's good to talk — properly

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

BT is set to spend "tens of millions of pounds" in an initiative with the dubious aim of tackling the alleged inabil-ity of British people to hold proper conversations. The campaign, launched today, is likely to attract fierce

criticism from millions of cus-

tomers who will argue the money would be better used to cut the cost of telephone calls. Last month BT announced a merger with MCI of America and the initiative - called TalkWorks - has borrowed heavily from the American self-improvement culture. It includes tips from Gerard Egan, Professor of Psychology at Loyola University, Chicago.

on effective communication. BT's drive to "transform the lives of people in the UK and equip us for the 21st century is not entirely selfless, says John Turner of TalkWorks. "By encouraging communication we will grow the telecommunications market," he said. "It is a visionary leap as we ap-



Look who's talking now: Phillip Schofield, the presenter

Within five years, BT claims it will have taught millions of people To get more out of life through better conversation."
But sceptics may question whether the collective British stiff upper lip, maintained for hundreds of years, can be softened in a matter of months through a 98-page book sent free to 20 million households and an hour-long television programme. Now We're Talking, presented by Phillip Scho-field, to be screened tonight. A BT spokeswoman said the project would bring a fresh approach to BT's current advertising campaign with the slogan, "it's good to talk". "People are increasingly bored with it," she confided, "and it

must have damaged Bob

Hoskins's acting career."

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